



TOWN PUBWATCH IS RELAUNCHED

Report by Sue Austin

BANK holiday revellers have been warned that if they misbehave in one Oswestry pub they could be barred from them all after the relaunch of the town's Pubwatch scheme.

A partnership of organisations from publicans to the police and the town's CCTV group has revitalised the scheme.

It has pledged to help keep the town's night time economy flourishing and has issued a timely warning to those planning a night on the town this weekend.

A dozen licensed premises have already signed up to Pubwatch including those in the Willow Street area known for its late night entertainment.

It is hoped many more will join the scheme, not only those in the town centre but others further afield including nearby villages.

Participants are being issued with new digital radios that link up with patrolling police officers and the town's award winning CCTV controllers.

Jim Stafford, the CCTV co-ordinator, said the new radios had been supplied by ORP Surveillance, which installed Oswestry's state-of-the-art CCTV system.

"The old, analogue radios were expensive and very crackly, these are cheaper and have wonderful clarity," he said.

"If someone is behaving badly or has been asked to leave, the pub staff can contact both the CCTV volunteers and police so that that person can be tracked during the evening.

"If CCTV staff are concerned about anything they too can contact publicans to warn them.

"Problems can be nipped in the bud before the get out of control."

Mr Stafford said Oswestry was now a very different place to the town that had a reputation for night-time anti-social behaviour in the 1990s. He said: "Oswestry is thriving and it has a wealth of good venues where people can come and enjoy an evening out.

"Nowhere will ever be completely safe but we want to ensure that people can enjoy Oswestry as a night time venue."

The next Pubwatch meeting will be held at the Townhouse restaurant in Oswestry, one of the venues that is part of the Pubwatch scheme, on Thursday next week. The meeting starts at 10am and anyone interested in joining the scheme or finding out more about it, is welcome to attend.

The relaunch of the Pubwatch scheme in Oswestry comes as councillors in Welshpool continue their battle to cut down on anti-social behaviour in their town.

Welshpool Town Council has been fighting for a People and Places Order for the town centre for a number of years and members of the council agreed to push on with the plans at a recent meeting. The order will allow for a ban on town centre drinking.

Mayor happy to fly the flag during his civic duties



Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington with the mayoral badge he has put on his car. Photo: Peter Shah.

OSWESTRY'S mayor has defended his decision to add a badge of office to the front of his car to help him in his mayoral duties.

Councillor Peter Cherrington said he attached the badge to the front of his car after having to walk through Shrewsbury town centre with his chains and robe to a civic event.

Councillor Cherrington said the badge had recently been criticised but he said it has helped raise the profile of the town.

He said: "As mayor of Oswestry one of my duties is to represent the people at numerous functions. It is also I believe one of my duties to improve economic growth, increase productivity and support business and tourism for the financial benefits of the town and its residents. I use my own car and drive myself

as Oswestry Town Council does not supply the mayor with transport and a chauffeur unlike Shrewsbury and some other towns.

"I have a town council car parking pass, but I live in the town so I walk to meetings. I also have a Shropshire Council car parking pass but I have never found it necessary to use this parking at Shirehall.

"In my travels around Shropshire and also out of county and even out of England into Wales, flying the flag is an excellent way of advertising Oswestry to others. I often get asked if I mind when people want to take a photo of me with them or to stand by my car which carries the Oswestry emblem and of course I am just proud to agree."

He added: "Some have criticised my idea,

which I paid for myself. I ask you, should we not be proud of our town? Should we not be proud of our achievements?

"I believe we should say yes. Oswestry's unemployment fell by 43 per cent over the past 12 months. We now have just over 270 unemployed people – a fact we should be proud of and something worth writing about.

"It is said I am outspoken and indeed I would agree but I speak out for the benefits of the people.

"The comments made regarding the crest on the car were simply raised after walking through the streets of Shrewsbury with the mayor's chain in its case and my robes under my arm simply because my vehicle was not recognised as the mayor's car."

INDUSTRY

Firm's expansion set to bring 50 new jobs to area

FIFTY new jobs will be created when a Mid Wales company opens a new £2 million factory.

Zip Clip, which is based in Newtown, will open a new 17,500sq ft manufacturing plant on the Offa's Dyke Business Park in Welshpool.

The Welsh Government will own the site and lease it to the company, which produces suspension systems.

The firm opened in 2004 and now supplies 22 countries.

Steve Goldsworthy, Zip Clip's chief executive, said thanks to the "continued fantastic support" from the Welsh Government the firm had been able to unlock the potential markets it now trades in.

Mr Goldsworthy said: "We have seen a growing global demand for our products and have secured a number of contracts with additional potential projects in the pipeline.

"We require larger premises to service those contracts and are very grateful for the help of the Welsh Government."

Glyn Davies, Montgomeryshire MP, said: "It's good to see that Zip Clip, which has been based in Montgomeryshire since its formation, is continuing to grow and create jobs."

"The company has been searching for new premises to accommodate growth and it's a relief to me that this is to take place in Montgomeryshire," the MP added.

CAMPAIGN

Adventurer to speak at Business Club

WORLD famous balloonist and adventurer Per Lindstrand will be the guest speaker at next week's Oswestry and Border Chronicle's Business Club meeting.

The Business Club is a key element of the Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign. The adventurer will be speaking at the Business Club meeting on Wednesday at 7pm. The Business Club meeting will commence at the end of the monthly meeting of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce at The Townhouse in Willow Street. To book a place for the event visit oswestrychamber.org.uk

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Phone giants promise to upgrade mobile network

Report by Thom Kennedy

MOBILE phone company O2 has promised a major upgrade to its network in Shropshire, improving coverage to thousands of customers.

It follows the launch of a new mapping service that shows it is falling behind its rivals in its internet service to the county.

The investment is a boost to campaigners calling for better mobile phone and internet coverage in Shropshire to help homes and businesses.

Ocom unveiled a new online survey that shows the mobile blackspots in the region.

It shows that O2, owned by Spanish company Telefonica, has the weakest provision for superfast 4G internet signal on mobile phones. At present, only Market Drayton receives strong 4G signal, although the company says it has also rolled out the service in Oswestry.

Now it is planning to move on to a number of other towns and villages around the county as part of a £3 billion network roll-out. "As part of our five-year £3 billion network modernisation programme, we're continuing to improve coverage on our 2G, 3G and 4G services," said Telefonica spokeswoman Sarah Taylor. "We have already rolled out 4G services in Oswestry and Market Drayton. We are currently in the process of upgrading the O2 network in Telford, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Newport, Shifnal, Bayston Hill, Broseley and Albrighton and we expect to complete that work and roll out 4G services in the next few months."

Ludlow and the Shropshire Hills are particularly badly served by all the major providers, the new mapping service reveals, and Ms Taylor added that the rural parts of south Shropshire are also being taken into consideration – but stopped short of promising the roll-out of 4G to the area.

However North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has questioned the accuracy of the new Ocom data, and insisted that the signal was actually getting worse.

"Mobile phones and broadband are the key things which enable Shropshire to get over its centuries-old disadvantage of being in a remote area," he said.

"With really good coverage you could run a business as effectively in Shropshire as in the centre of Manchester, but it is deteriorating badly."

Festive fun already at town card shop



Amy Matthews from The Card Factory with this year's Christmas cards. Photo: Peter Shah.

WITH just under four months to go before Christmas a card shop has decided it's time to bring out the tinsel and get ready for the big day.

Card Factory in Bailey Street, Oswestry, started selling its Christmas cards, bags and wrapping paper last week – despite there still being months before December 25.

Store manager Amy Matthews said she didn't see any problem with starting early and said it had provoked plenty of comments from customers.

She said: "Lots of our customers like to spread the cost of Christmas, so we make sure we launch our Christmas ranges in plenty of time."

"They seem to be going down very well with customers and the staff are enjoying getting into the Christmas mood."

But some shoppers said the sight of early Christmas cards filled them with despair.

Beverley Thompson, from Oswestry, said selling the festive merchandise in August was "madness".

Miss Thompson said: "I absolutely love Christmas but even for me it's far too early."

"It's still August and while I love Christmas it's ridiculous to have Christmas cards when the children haven't gone back to school yet. I haven't even been on holiday yet. I understand when people buy Christmas presents in the January sales, but

when the cards are there in your face this early I really don't understand it."

"The end of October is probably early enough – get Halloween out of the way."

"No wonder people panic buy when everything's out in August."

"We go from one thing straight to the next and don't have time to enjoy the present. Putting it out this early is mad, absolutely mad. No wonder people get stressed about it."

• Is this the earliest Christmas merchandise in the area? If you've spotted any festive cards or other treats on sale let us know by e-mailing pam.kingsley@shropshirestar.co.uk



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Town's road crash figures are revealed

MORE than 70 collisions have taken place on a controversial one-way system since it opened – with 18 of them resulting in injury.

Dyfed-Powys Police said it has been called to 71 crashes on Welshpool's one-way system since it opened in March 2011.

The figures have been released through a Freedom of Information request submitted by Welshpool Town Council as it bids to make changes to the system.

They show 19 collisions on the system in its first nine months – four of them involving injury.

There were then 10 crashes in 2012, 18 in 2013 and 17 last year.

There had been seven this year up to June 11 – although none had resulted in injury.

The statistics are for the main roads on the system – High Street, Broad Street, Jehu Road, Brook Street, Union Street, Mill Lane, Church Street and Severn Street.

Welshpool Town Council is asking the Welsh Trunk Road Agency to consider returning Brook Street and Union Street to two-way traffic.

Meanwhile, a date has been set for a meeting between Welshpool Town Council, Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM and Welsh Assembly transport minister Edwina Hart. Mrs Hart will visit the town on October 26 for a private 45-minute meeting.

Businessman off on African mission

A BUSINESSMAN has teamed up with former peace envoy Terry Waite to launch a new art based training initiative in Africa.

Clive Knowles has left his British Ironwork Centre base, near Oswestry, for a charitable mission to South Africa and Zimbabwe with Mr Waite and a director of YCare, an off shoot of the YMCA.

Their aim is to establish workshops on the outskirts of cities like Durban, Cape Town and Harare, supporting young craftsman to start their own businesses.

"These workshops will use scrap, especially old disused oil drums to create sculptures for display here in Shropshire at the sculpture park," Mr Knowles said.

"It's essentially us using our demand for art and sculpture to go direct to some of the most needy areas."

Welsh patients told to make their voices heard

Report by Pam Kingsley

THE views of people living in Mid Wales over the future of health-care in Shropshire need to be heard "loud and clear", according to a Welsh Assembly member.

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George said politicians, community groups and the wider public in Mid Wales needs to unite and get involved in the Future Fit debate.

He has launched a healthcare survey asking people for their views on services provided by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, which runs the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's Princess Royal. Mr George said the two hospitals were the ones most often used by residents in Powys needing urgent or specialist care.

The Future Fit board has announced that the development of a new greenfield site for an emergency care hospital between Shrewsbury and Telford would be unaffordable.

It is now likely that emergency care for patients across Shropshire and Mid Wales will be based solely at either the RSH or PRH, while urgent care centres will be based at both sites.

Mr George said: "When I speak to people on the doorstep, health is the number one priority. With significant changes taking place across the border in Shropshire, it is important that the voices of residents in Montgomeryshire are heard loud and clear.

"I would therefore encourage as many people as possible to complete my health survey and spread the word to friends and family so that the people of Montgomeryshire can speak with a united voice in order to achieve the best possible outcome from the NHS Future Fit process."

The survey is online at www.russell-george.com/health or for a paper copy call (01686) 610887.

Meanwhile a petition has been launched in a bid to get an urgent care centre opened in Mid Wales.

Jane Dodds, Lib Dem Welsh Assembly candidate for Montgomeryshire, said it is vital the Welsh Assembly opens a centre in the region.

Ms Dodds said it would alleviate pressure on local GPs and remove the need to travel to Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth for treatment.

To sign the petition visit: www.montlibdems.org.uk/umc

Ellie proves she is a real top dog



Carol Roberts with Ellie the rescue dog. Photo: Peter Shah.

A FORMER rescue dog who now gets involved in fundraisers to help other canines has repaid her owner's kindness by winning a dog show.

Ellie the Schnauzer was rescued by Carole and Charles Roberts from a life as a breeding dog.

Her days changed from non-stop pregnancy and birth to becoming a much loved pet at the couple's home in Knockin near Oswestry.

Now Ellie is also the proud winner of a fun dog show held at the Cremorne Gardens in Ellesmere.

The event was organised by the

Hector's Greyhound Rescue charity, which had a section of classes just for greyhounds and another for other breeds of dog.

Mrs Roberts, who runs the dog friendly cafe at the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre, said she entered Ellie into the dog show to help the greyhound charity.

"Ellie is our fourth rescue dog and we have seen how their lives can be changed," she said.

"We are keen to help organisations that help all rescue dogs."

She said that she also enjoyed taking part in charity dog walks

with Ellie and her other dog, a Westie called Alice.

The pair are often seen at the heritage centre cafe, where dogs are treated as VIPs.

Before their human owners are served, Mrs Roberts ensures that the visiting pooches are given their own bowl of water and a free doggy treat. Mrs Roberts said that she would like to see more places become dog friendly across Shropshire. "None of our customers have ever complained that we have dogs in the cafe. In fact they say that it makes them smile," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crews are called to attend road crash

A YOUNG family and a man were involved in a two-car crash near Oswestry.

The crash happened at the junction of the A5 with the B5009 turning towards Gobowen at about 12.30pm on Monday.

Tim Davidson, watch manager at Oswestry Fire Station, said: "The cars had knocked each other on to the grass verge so they were safely off the road when we arrived.

"We did some casualty care while we were awaiting the ambulance and made the vehicles electrically safe.

"There was a family of four in the one car travelling to Chester Zoo for a day out, and an elderly gentleman in the other vehicle."

Two ambulances were called to check over the people involved in the crash.

College on hand to give out advice

NORTH Shropshire College will be holding an advice and guidance event across all three of its campuses for prospective students.

The Oswestry, Shipley and Walford campuses will be open on Wednesday from 4pm to 8pm, when teaching staff will be on hand to discuss qualifications and options open to school leavers, and also for adults looking to start a course this September.

Staff from student services will also be available with information about travel and financial support on offer.

For more information about courses starting at the college this September, call the college admissions team on (01691) 688080 or you can visit www.nsc.ac.uk

Bear share plan at village church

CHILDREN are invited to bring a "bear to share" to a teddy bears' picnic.

St Agatha's Church in Llanymynech is holding a Bank Holiday Bear and Barbicue Bonanza on Sunday with games, activities and food.

All children who attend are invited to bring along their teddies, but are also asked to bring along a bear which will be donated to local children's charities after the event.

The fun will start at 4pm.

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Tributes paid to young chef after road collision tragedy



Steve Jones

Report by Pam Kingsley

A MOTORCYCLIST who died after he was involved in a collision with a horsebox was a talented young chef who had worked at one of the region's top hotels.

Steve Jones, 27, who had been working as a sous chef at the Lake Vyrnwy Hotel and Spa in Llanwddyn until three weeks ago, was seriously injured in the accident on the A49 just north of Craven Arms on August 14.

Mr Jones, from Oswestry, died in hospital last week. The hotel's operations manager Anthony Rosser, said staff had been left shocked by his death.

Community backing for festival idea

PLANS to hold a new summer festival next year in Oswestry has been welcomed by the community.

Businessman and Oswestry town councillor Chris Stokes said his idea for a week-long festival has had people coming forward with ideas and volunteering to help.

And at a meeting of Oswestry Town Council he pledged to put £1,000 of his money into getting the festival off the ground.

Councillor Stokes mooted the idea of a new festival after the demise of Oswestry's popular Party in the Park event that was held in Cae Glas Park at the turn of the millennium.

At a public meeting earlier in the summer everything from large scale sports evenings to outdoor cinema screenings and even a giant Ferris wheel were discussed.

Councillor Stokes said discussions about the festival are still at a very early stage.

He stressed that his ball park figure of £50,000 for staging an event, mentioned at the inaugural meeting, had not meant that such money would come from the town council.

"We could look at sponsorship and advertising to get money in for staging events and individual organisations would have to play their part," he said.

"As a sign of good faith I will pledge £1,000 sponsorship from my own company."

"He had a strong future in front of him. "We don't know exactly what happened yet but I'm a fellow motorcyclist so it was really terrible to hear about the accident."

Former colleague Simon Hough added: "Rest in peace Steve, what a chef you turned out to be. I'm proud to have once cooked beside you and to have called you my friend."

"We've all lost a true friend but heaven's gained an angel. God only takes the best." Friends have taken to social media to pay tribute.

Fee Lewis, from Meole Brace, wrote on Facebook: "Steve, you were a pleasure to know and have some wonderful happy memories of your happy cheery self, ambitious and so caring and thoughtful, you've made so many happy memories with all those who were lucky enough to know you."

Long-time friend Ross Palmer said: "Gotta thank you for all the memories we had growing up playing in a band, staying up late for the basketball every year and all the nights out we've had, and for helping me out when I had nowhere to go. You did a lot for me."

Other friends described Mr Jones's kind and happy personality, calling him a "really sound lad" and "such a respectful person".

Shropshire's coroner John Ellery has been informed of the death.

Mr Jones had been riding his Suzuki GSF 600 motorbike towards Shrewsbury when he was in collision with the Iveco horsebox.

West Mercia Police spokeswoman Holly Clayton-Bevan said Mr Jones had been airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after receiving a blood transfusion in Shrewsbury, but died last week.

Wartime book is donated



Ron Cope and Catherine Mason, a relative of Arthur Mason, with the book

A **WARTIME** book that tells of a battle for survival at sea has been presented to a museum in memory of a seaman who was involved.

Telford author Ron Cope wrote the book *Attack at Dawn* about the First Battle of Narvik, in which his father, Cyril, was involved. He also wrote about other seamen, including Oswestry's Arthur Mason.

Mr Mason, who grew up in the village of Maesbury near Oswestry, lived for much of his life in Cheshire.

After surviving the war he went on to live until 92, passing away in 2005.

Mr Mason's family have presented a copy of the book to the museum in his home town.

Attack at Dawn relives the First Battle of Narvik, a destroyer engagement that took place on April 10, 1940, during the German invasion of Norway.

Mr Cope and Mr Mason, known as Bert in the Navy, served on the destroyer HMS Hardy which was heavily hit and beached.

The survivors swam to shore in freezing temperatures and were brought back to Britain a few days later.

The book has been published to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the engagement.

Attack at Dawn is published by Clink Street Publishing and is priced £11.99 paperback or £7.99 as an ebook. It is available online or from book stores.

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Town could have its own cultural quarter for arts

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY could soon see the development of its own cultural quarter thanks to an ambitious plan by a young musician.

Barry Edwards has taken over the lease of the Hermon Chapel Arts Centre in Oswestry.

He says the area around Chapel Street and Oswestry's castle mound could be buzzing with art and music based events, bringing a huge boost to the local economy.

Mr Edwards, 31, has already been talking to those behind the nearby Kinoculture independent cinema about his plans. And he has been in conversation with volunteers involved with Oswestry Library about his ambitious dream.

Petition is launched in school fight

A PETITION has been launched in a bid to keep both Welsh and English language education at a high school.

Parents and supporters of Caereinion High School in Llanfair Caereinion have launched the petition, which has already been signed by more than 380 people, as Powys County Council looks to shake-up its education services.

The county council has said it cannot afford to keep six secondary schools in north Powys open and has suggested changes to two bilingual schools, Llanfyllin - which would lose its Welsh stream - and Llanfair Caereinion which would become all Welsh.

But supporters have launched the petition in a bid to get the council to change its mind.

Ceri Wal, from the town, has launched the petition.

She said: "Excluding local children from their own school would cause a rift in this community and damage the Welsh language in the area."

Meanwhile, town councillors in Llanfyllin have written to Powys County Council in a bid to save their dual-language school, which would see it lose its Welsh education.

Councillor Peter Lewis, who is also county councillor for Llanfyllin, said: "There was a benchmark of 650 pupils up to sixth form and 150 pupils in the sixth form below which the school was considered less viable, but Llanfyllin is easily over that. The report also said our numbers are dropping when they're actually going up."

Mr Edwards said: "I will take over the running of the Hermon Chapel in October and am preparing to make it a valued community and artistic hub."

"I have had interest from story-tellers, film-makers and drama groups and many events are already happening in the chapel."

Mr Edwards is an Oswestry musician who trained at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

He has been involved in local jazz evenings and Oswestry's Gigfest music festival.

Mr Edwards said he had been interested in the Hermon Chapel since it re-opened as a venue.

He said: "The building has great acoustics but also an intimate feel."

"One of the sad things for musicians in Oswestry is that the only venues are in pubs, a particular problem for young people."

"I want to nurture their talent and give them the opportunity to perform."

A monthly Chapel Unplugged acoustic evening gives four musicians each month the chance to perform and receive 80 per cent of the ticket price.

Oswestry Town Council recently agreed to give the Hermon Chapel initiative help in applying for £7,000 funding from National Lottery's Award for All scheme.

Mayor, Councillor Peter Cherrington said: "We did the same for Kinoculture and that has gone from strength to strength."

"Giving projects like these our help, even without putting in an financial contribution, we can help to ensure they are a success."

Mr Edwards, who goes by the stage name Bazmatron, said: "We want to see Hermon become the arts centre for Oswestry working alongside other groups and companies in and around the town."

An open evening to explain ideas for the future will be held at the chapel on September 18 from 6.30pm.



Barry Edwards of the Hermon Chapel Arts Centre takes a look at some of the artwork

Fundraiser will aid charity

WHEN John Hartshorn's wife Val was diagnosed with cancer and faced losing her hair after chemotherapy, he decided he wouldn't let her go through it alone.

And once John had made up his mind, their friend Adrian Huxley agreed to join him in braving the clippers.

The idea snowballed and this weekend several friends are to take part in the aptly named Slaphhead Challenge to raise funds for a Shropshire cancer centre.

John said: "We knew Val could lose her hair so I offered to shave mine when she started her chemotherapy."

"A couple of friends had done a head shave before, but Val said I could only do it if I did it for charity. So I agreed, and then quite a few guys from the Oswestry Bed-

ouins Cricket Club said they would do the same - although some of us don't actually have that much hair."

Mr Hartshorn said the event has turned into quite an event with fancy dress, dyed hair and a family fun day on Sunday.

The event will be held at the Oswestry Cricket Club and organisers are hoping to raise thousands of pounds for the Lingen Davies Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, where Val has her chemotherapy.

John has been collecting money from customers at his butchers shop in Beatrice Street and several local pubs have also asked customers to help.

So far he has raised £500. To donate, call in at the shop or visit www.justgiving.com/Johnhartshorn/

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Well now it's official. Ofcom this week confirmed what we've all been saying for years. The mobile phone signal on the borders is pretty well useless. Ofcom revealed a new mapping service illustrating the strength of mobile signals in the UK, and they provide the evidence to back up local claims that getting good reception in Oswestry and the Welsh borders area is a hopeless situation.

There's now no hiding place left for the mobile phone operators who have been providing a shocking service for anywhere other than the centre of Oswestry.

Are things really picking up on the economic front for Welshpool?

Poundland opens on Saturday, occupying the vacant Co-operative supermarket building which has stood empty in Berriew Street for far too long, and the word on the street is that Tesco has finally signed up an as-yet nameless tenant on the vacant adjoining site. There's also a lot of chatter that developers are talking to a hotel group about the eyesore site alongside the Smithfield Bell and confirmation of a new £2 million Welsh Government factory to be built at Offa's Dyke Business Park.

A friend visited the town for the first time in a year recently and told me he was impressed by the buzz on the street and surprised to find very few empty shops. So things really do seem to be on the up. We are all quick enough to complain and criticise but Welshpool really is in a far healthier condition than many towns in the area and still has lots to offer. I for one wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

And if we needed confirmation of what a great area we live in BBC's Country File did it for us on Sunday night when featuring Powys. It would have cost Wales Tourist Board a small fortune to promote the county and the Welshpool area in particular so well. If you haven't seen it yet be sure not to miss it on catch-up TV.

And finally, I've been in the media industry for 45 years and think I know a thing or two about what sets the news agenda - until last weekend!

So finding that a respected national newspaper chose to splash a front page lead story about the break-up of boy band One Direction rather than the horrific Hawk Hunter jet crash at Shoreham Air Show proved a real eye opener. Is it me? Or does anyone else find it hard to believe that an editor thinks the break-up of the Simon Cowell manufactured X-Factor band is a bigger news story than the death of at least 11 innocent motorists, whose lives were tragically cut short?



A photograph of Jackfield taken by a drone



Deutsche Post has put drones into use



Internet retailer Amazon plans deliveries by drone

Drones go from secret weapon to global craze

MARK ANDREWS reports on how unmanned planes are becoming a must-have device for so many people

IT is the craze that has taken off - literally.

Once the US Air Force's secret weapon in the Vietnamese War, drones can now be bought for as little as £20 and are now being used by everyone from amateur photographers to the emergency services.

And hundreds could soon be whizzing over our heads as online retail giant Amazon looks to deliver parcels to your home by drone.

Paul Watkins, an ex-photographer for our sister paper the Shropshire Star, runs the Skylens aerial photography firm. He was one of the first people to spot their potential about eight years ago when he invested £25,000 in his first drone.

"We have always kept on top of technology," he says. "We had developed telescopic masts to do photography from vehicles and we had also developed helium balloons to take pictures from the sky. When I saw these being used by the military I thought they were absolutely spot-on for photographic use."

And he says he was never in any doubt that as the technology evolved, that demand for drones - or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) as they are more formally known - would be very large indeed.

The sales of drones are now in their thousands, from professional ones costing tens of thousands of pounds to small units sold for £20 in toy shops. And Mr Watkins says the technology has made huge strides over the past few years.

"The original system could not do half of the things that we can do now," he says. "It could fly up to 400ft, but it could only carry a small lightweight cam-



Skylens photographer Andrew Cunningham, left, with Paul Watkins

era. They can now carry much bigger camera systems, and they are a lot more stable, and they can cope with stronger winds, four or five times stronger than they used to be. They can travel more quickly, although we are regulated by how quickly they fly."

With the rise of large drones used for film, surveillance and data-gathering, regulation of UAV use has become an increasingly thorny issue.

In January 2010, the Civil Aviation Authority introduced new regulations that require drone surveillance and data operators to obtain permission before commencing a flight within a congested area or in close proximity to people or property.

The Air Navigation Order 2009 says operators of small, unmanned surveillance aircraft must not fly them over or within 164 yards of any congested area,

over or within the same distance of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 people, or within 55 yards of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the user's control, unless they have permission from the CAA.

It also states that users must maintain direct visual contact with the drone to avoid collisions.

Mr Watkins says that while the rules are strict enough, there are issues with enforcement, with many people either ignoring the laws or pleading ignorance.

"I think it's only a matter of time before a major incident happens because people have been flying dangerously," he says.

Revellers were warned by police ahead of last weekend's V Festival in Weston Park, near Shifnal, that the event would be a strict no-fly zone. The warning came after pop star Enrique

Iglesias sliced his finger on stage in Mexico when a drone flew too close to him.

Ironically, police have themselves used drones for crowd control at the event.

Inspector Paul Barker, from Staffordshire Police's Tactical Planning Unit, says its vehicle has a limited flight capability, and can operate in various scenarios using different payloads, including a thermal camera.

"It has been used, and is available to use, in the search for missing persons, to search hazardous environments for people and objects and it can record still and video images for evidential purposes," he says. "The UAV can be requested to support any police activity at any time."

The device has already been used to catch two men from Stoke-on-Trent who were discovered on Cannock Chase with a deer carcass in their van.

Tactical

Shropshire Fire Service does not at present have a drone, although it is looking into the possibility of getting one.

The neighbouring West Midlands Fire Service does use a UAV and Andy Cashmore, from the service, says it is used for "gathering vital information to aid the emergency response and tactical decision making processes of the incident".

While drones are now a key piece of kit in the fight against crime, in the first prosecution of its kind in England a man will stand trial accused of flying a drone illegally.

Nigel Wilson, from Nottingham, will stand trial at Westminster Magistrates Court in September accused of 15 breaches of the Air Navigation Order. The 42-year-old admitted two counts, but will go on trial for the remaining 15.

He denies charges of flying a "small unmanned surveillance aircraft" without permission during football matches. The charges also claim he breached rules by failing to maintain direct visual contact with the drone as it flew near landmarks including Buckingham Palace.

WORKING FOR YOU



I am writing about a highly controversial issue in my Chronicle column this week.

During the six weeks before the General Election, a team of my supporters knocked on thousands of Montgomeryshire doors.

We were all from Montgomeryshire. Our avowed aim was not to pressure anyone into voting for me, but to coax them into telling us what they thought were the important issues. I wanted to know what the issues of most local concern were, and understand why.

I was very surprised indeed by the response. Very few were concerned about our NHS and schools. This is what I had expected, and had focused on in my campaign literature.

But No. In second place was concern about an over-generous benefit system. But in first place, by a long way, was concern about immigration. I admit to being quite taken aback. Even in Montgomeryshire, where immigration is comparatively low, there was a widespread concern that too many migrants are coming into the UK.

Since May the scale of immigration has increased further. It's become a serious concern right across the EU. And increasing. Thousands of people are being picked up in the Med every day off the coast of Italy. Thousands are arriving in Greece every day. Germany expects 800,000 refugees this year.

It's the same all over Europe. And the reality is that once all these migrants become established, EU rules based on the fundamental principle of the free movement of people across EU borders mean they can settle anywhere in Europe, including Britain. Some people campaign to have all, or at least a significant number of these migrants/refugees to be allowed into the UK.

There are two million Syrian refugees - displaced by an evil regime that Parliament decided last September should be allowed to continue its brutal attacks on its own people.

If we were to open our borders, where on earth would they all go? What would happen to our schools and health services? What would happen to wage levels, which have only recently started to rise again?

There are no easy answers. Next year or in 2017 there will be a referendum on whether we should remain members of the EU. Unless the huge number of migrants into the EU is brought under control, I really can see the British people voting to leave the EU altogether. It's not just in Montgomeryshire this issue is a major concern. I suspect it's of far greater concern in many other parts of the UK.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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DOESN'T HAVING COPYRIGHT MEAN I CAN DISPLAY PORTRAIT IMAGES ON MY WEBSITE?

Q: I am a professional photographer. I was recently commissioned to take a family portrait and my customer was delighted with the result. As I often do, I later put a copy of the portrait on my website to show potential customers visiting the site what I can do. My customer has now contacted me and complained they are unhappy about this. Although I have taken the photograph off the website because I don't want to upset them, I always thought that copyright remained with the photographer who could then do what he wished with the image. Am I wrong?

A: The answer to your question is in fact that you are partly right and partly wrong. You are right in so much as when a professional photographer is commissioned to take photographs, including domestic portraits and wedding photographs, the copyright will generally remain with the photographer. The situation might be different if the photographer is employed by a professional studio as then the copyright will generally belong to the studio, or if there is an agreement to assign copyright to another party.

However, notwithstanding that copyright belongs to the photographer or studio, if a photograph has been commissioned for private and domestic purposes then the person who has commissioned the photograph has the right not to have the photograph issued to the public, displayed in public, or broadcast.

If you wish to display photographs on your website for advertising purposes it would be prudent to get the agreement of your customer in writing before doing so. You may also wish to consider contacting a solicitor to have terms and conditions drafted that you can bring to the attention of your customers or publish on your website.

Further information relating to this question is available from Claire Parfitt, a trainee solicitor with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01978 291456 or visit www.ghplegal.com

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A&E must stay open for good of county

FOR hundreds of years Shrewsbury hospitals provided central medical care to Shropshire.

In 1991 another hospital was built at Telford and very recently many major services were transferred there making it almost inevitable that A&E will follow.

The obvious alternative is that the ambulance takes you to Shrewsbury A&E for initial assessment and then you have to get back in the ambulance for transfer to Telford. What drives these decisions?

While this is bad news for many people living in Shropshire and Mid Wales, another amazing announcement appeared.

It was that "if you had a heart attack you would not be taken to Telford, but Wolverhampton".

That's over 60 miles from the west of Shropshire! Coronary heart disease is the main cause of death in the UK and much of the world.

It seems bizarre that a major life-threatening condition requires such a long journey for attention, especially now some ambulance stations have been disbanded and response times are often not met.

It's all very well creating care centres in different parts of Shropshire. They are fine for insect bites and minor cuts but if you

are really ill you need quick access to a fully-fledged medical service. And that should be in the centre of the county where it always was until recently.

We all have to die, but good quality medical care provided promptly is a priority for the county and the country and should take precedence over other schemes that compete for resources.

People worry about being out of the country when they have a medical emergency. They may need to be more concerned when they have one here!

P KEEN
Oswestry

Crowds flock to see procession through town



It's a Welshpool procession, but what's the event? Thankfully, help is at hand, because after this picture was published 12 years ago retired headmaster Bob Bayliss came forward to identify it as Welshpool Friendly Societies and Cycle Club fete on August 6, 1903. It was held on the football ground and included a cycle carnival.

Corbyn the right man to take on Labour top job

TONY Blair is no longer a kingpin in the Labour Party, so for him to say that the party faces annihilation if Jeremy Corbyn is placed as leader is rather hypocritical.

We all know Mr Blair only got elected because after all the years in the wilderness, starting when Margaret Thatcher was first elected. He changed a lot of the fundamental body and soul of the Labour Party and the electorate voted for him because his view were more or less the same as the Tory party.

We all know that Mr Blair's father has been a lifelong Tory supporter, and Tony just turned Labour into the pink Tory party.

Jeremy Corbyn is the right man for leader of the Labour Party and the other runners in the race to be leader are just clones of Tony Blair who want to carry on his misguided pink Tory policies.

We don't want a pink Labour government, we want a leader who has the courage to say "This is who I am".

M EDDIES
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Builders are hit the hardest

A CONSERVATIVE minister was talking about housing shortages and explaining that one of the main reasons was not enough builders or workers with necessary skills. We have very able builders in all trades but each time we have a recession the first people to lose their jobs are the builders and more often than not, being self employed, they get little or no compensation. So who can blame young people from shying away from the building trade?

ADRIAN WILLIAMS
Bratton

Saviour shows everyone the way to heaven

JOHNNY Cash used to sing "It's not the pace that matters it's the direction that you go". What about life in general, do we ever think about where we are heading?

Some people know their time is very limited and have a list of things they want to do before they go. But go where - is it heaven or hell; why do we fear death? The truth is, it's in our DNA, part of being human, heaven and hell. We are not mere animals; cows in the meadow don't appreciate the flowers or wonder at the night sky.

Who knows? Well, a few billion around the globe are quite sure. Like the Egyptian workers in Libya who were slaughtered by Islamists but died singing hymns. They had met the One who said he came from heaven.

Although they crucified him, He promised to rise from the dead on the third day and He did, conquering death, proving He is the eternal Son of God. You should meet Him, He's still our only hope, giving peace and transforming lives today.

RON JONES
St Martin's

Disabled fans deserve better treatment by football clubs

DISABLED football fans are fed up with poor provision

The world's richest and most popular football league has kicked off again and hundreds of thousands of fans have attended the first games of the new season.

But I wonder how many disabled supporters were among them? Not nearly as many as wanted to, if our own research is anything to go by.

I work for the charity Revitalise, which provides respite holidays for disabled people and carers from across the UK. Accessible excursions are an integral part of what we do, so we wanted to find what Premier League clubs were doing for their disabled fans on match days. The results made for depressing reading.

We found out that all the clubs had signed up to guidelines and promised to improve their provision for disabled people over 10 years ago, but after all that time only three Premiership clubs - Arsenal, Bournemouth and Swansea - had the recommended number of spaces for wheelchair users. In our view this is quite pathetic.

We also asked disabled football fans about their own experiences and they painted a picture of poor match day experiences and feelings of exclusion. This is not good enough.

Disabled supporters have a right to expect the same enjoyable, socially-inclusive experience as every other fan, which is why we're calling for football clubs to up their game and provide better facilities and services for disabled fans. We don't think that's too much to ask.

I'd like your readers to join me in calling for football clubs to get on the ball and do the right thing by their disabled supporters.

For more info about Revitalise and to support our vital work call 0303 303 0145 or visit www.revitalise.org.uk.

COLIN BROOK, REVITALISE
www.revitalise.org.uk

Club for former Round Tablers

DO you harbour warm memories of being a footloose and fancy-free Round Tabler - and then reached the age of 40 where the rules meant you got chucked out?

And do you still recall the fun you had with like-minded people? Well you don't have to kick those days into touch as Oswestry has a thriving '41 Club' for folk just like you or even your friends who didn't travel that route.

Former tablers meet on the last Thursday every month, usually at Sweeney Hall Hotel, and fill their year with intriguing visits, fascinating speakers, the odd garden party, some adventurous outings and even a spot of golf or ten-pin bowling.

Think this could interest you? Well contact our secretary Steve Theobald on 01691 662984 or email stevetho@hotmail.co.uk.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tax consultant in court over claims

A TAX consultant has appeared in court charged with defrauding his clients out of more than £1.3 million.

David Vaughan Jones, 76, from Leighton, near Welshpool, appeared at Mold Crown Court on Friday last week charged with 31 fraud-related offences.

He was bailed to appear back at the crown court on October 10 for a plea hearing.

The charges claim he took money from 14 different people, some of which related to the distribution of estates following a death, and £100,000 of which should have been given to charities as well as to the deceased's next of kin.

Many of the charges are of obtaining money by deception, where it is claimed Jones said he would invest large amounts of money in high interest offshore accounts but instead took the money for himself.

In total, he is accused of stealing £1,337,158.23 from his clients.

Jones also faces charges of forgery and of intimidating a witness.

Two suffer minor injuries in crash

TWO people were treated by paramedics after a two-vehicle crash near Welshpool.

The road accident happened at 9.10am on Friday last week on the A458 Middletown to Welshpool road when a red Ford Focus was involved in a collision with and a white Mercedes van.

Sian George, Dyfed Powys Police spokeswoman, said: "An ambulance attended and staff treated two casualties with believed minor injuries in the Ford Focus.

"The road was blocked until 10.25am."

Sex offender, 24, gets suspended prison term

Report by Andrew Morris

A MAN who had sex with an under age girl has escaped an immediate jail term.

Kirk Mark Tranchard, 24, received a two year prison sentence, suspended for two years at Mold Crown Court.

He was placed on supervision and sent on a community sex offender group programme.

The defendant is prohibited from entering the town where the victim lives and he must register with the police as a sex offender for seven years.

A five year sexual harm prevention order was also made during the hearing on Thursday last week, which prevents him being alone with girls under 16.

Judge Philip Richards warned him that if he had been a little older then he would have gone to prison for a considerable period.

He had read a pre-sentence report and a psychiatric report on the defendant who had his own difficulties.

But the consequences for his victim had been immense, Judge Richards said.

At an earlier hearing, rape charges were dropped when Tranchard admitted inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.

Tranchard, of Tanygraig, Montgomery, also admitted five charges of sexual activity with a child.

Prosecuting barrister Andrew Green told how the victim reported the matter last year and told police what had happened to her. In a victim impact statement she said it was difficult to explain the effect it had on her because of the enormity of what had happened.

Three are injured in road collision



The wreckage of one of the cars involved in the collision. Photo: West Midlands Ambulance Service.

A CAR was ripped in half in a crash which left three people injured.

The crash happened on Gobowen Road in Oswestry at 10.10pm on Tuesday night. A woman in her 30s suffered serious injuries and was trapped in the wreckage of a car which had its rear end ripped off in the collision. Firefighters had

to cut her free. John Hawker from West Midlands Ambulance said the collision had involved two cars. The woman passenger in the badly damaged car received emergency treatment from medics whilst still in the vehicle.

The woman, in her 30s, was transferred by ambulance to Royal

Shrewsbury Hospital for further emergency treatment.

The driver of the car, a man believed to be in his 30s, was treated at the scene by medics and was also transferred to the same hospital for further treatment.

The woman driving the second vehicle suffered minor injuries.

Councillors agree to back school skillscheme

OSWESTRY Town Council is to team up with The Marches Secondary School to launch its Futures Award initiative.

The aim of the project will be to help students leave school with more than academic qualifications and give them vital 'life skills'.

At a special meeting of the council called by Mayor Peter Cherrington the council agreed to back the community aspect of the award scheme with £5,000 sponsorship.

However some councillors were not happy with the financial contribution.

A report from town clerk David Preston said each student would have a folder that would stay with them throughout their time at The Marches.

This would chart their achievements in four areas, academic progress, community, employability skills and creativity.

"The benefit for students taking part is centred around gaining skills to help future careers," he said.

Councillor Cherrington said that it was good for the town council to be involved with the town's secondary school.

Councillor Chris Stokes said he was concerned about the benefits of the scheme.

"I am all for helping the young people of Oswestry but I do question whether giving them all a folder is the way to help them," he said.

"We all managed to go through school and find work without this type of thing."

The council voted to sponsor the award scheme for one year, using Oswestry Youth Council funds and also funds left over from the Golden Jubilee celebrations reserves.

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Businesses can get fit for future

FUTURECASTING – taking a look at how the economy will perform several years down the line – is coming to Oswestry later this year.

A workshop is being organised by Oswestry and Shropshire Chambers of Commerce to help Oswestry firms get fit for the future. Oswestry Vision will be held on October 22 at the Lion Quays Hotel and Spa just outside Oswestry, from 8am to 1pm.

Paul Forrest, head economist at the West Midlands Economic Forum, will be the keynote speaker. He will give advice on technological and social advances that are taking place and how businesses can benefit. The Barclays Digital Eagles team will host hourly sessions on advanced tools available to make business more effective.

Oswestry chamber chairman Jools Payne said: "Oswestry Vision will be a totally interactive and immersive learning and development experience. Paul is an expert on futurecasting and has all the relevant regional data to highlight where the opportunities for future economic prosperity lie."

Oswestry Vision is free but delegates wanting breakfast and lunch must pay in advance at www.shropshirechamber.co.uk

Quiz night in aid of cancer charity

A QUIZ in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care will be held on Wednesday in Oswestry.

The quiz will take place at the New Spring Lamb on Shrewsbury Road at 7.30pm.

Entry is £10 for a team of up to four people and refreshments will be available.

Telephone Margery James MBE on (01691) 650334 for more information.

Lindstrand Technologies remains a world leader

WE MEAN BUSINESS

THE Oswestry and Border Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry's businesses. This week we celebrate Lindstrand Technologies.

Lindstrand Technologies was founded by balloonist and adventurer Per Lindstrand and is a world leader in the research and development of lighter-than-air fabric engineering.

Products include inflated structures and tethered gas balloons.

Mr Lindstrand's announcement earlier this year that he is to resume manufacturing hot air balloons has created global interest. The entrepreneur began balloon manufacturing in Oswestry in 1978 and from this location revolutionised the design of the modern day balloon.

Mr Lindstrand says his visionary approach to balloon design and manufacturing places Oswestry at the forefront of the industry. The adventurer will be speaking about his ballooning plans for Oswestry at the next meeting of the Oswestry and Border Chronicle's Business Club on Wednesday next week at 7pm.

The Business Club meeting will commence at the end of the monthly meeting of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce which starts at 6pm at The Townhouse in Willow Street.

To book a place for the event visit oswestrychamber.org.uk



Per Lindstrand's firm leads the way in the research and development of lighter-than-air fabric engineering

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man admits to kill threat claim

AN Oswestry man has admitted a charge of making threats to kill his wife when he appeared at the crown court.

John Piddock pleaded guilty to making the threats on June 21 this year.

During a brief hearing at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Monday, the defendant pleaded not guilty to two charges involving alleged assaults against the victim.

Those charges involved allegations of assault by beating between June 4 and 10 and causing actual bodily harm on June 21.

Graham Russell, prosecuting, told the court it was a case of domestic violence.

Mr Russell said that the pleas by the defendant were accepted by the court subject to a consultation with the victim.

The case was adjourned for sentence for reports until September 18.

Piddock, of Elm Close, Oswestry, was remanded in custody.

Man in court over rape allegation

A MAN has appeared in court charged with rape.

Paul Bradley, of Hammonds Place, Gobowen, appeared at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

The alleged offence took place on October 31 last year in Oswestry.

Bradley, 26, only spoke in court to confirm his name and details.

Bradley was represented by Euros Jones, who indicated a not guilty plea on his behalf.

A trial date was set by District Judge Derek French for November 9 at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

Bradley is on bail until his next court appearance.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Elderly warned on phone scams

OLDER people are being warned to be aware of the possibility of fraud when they get unsolicited phone calls.

The warning from Dyfed-Powys Police follows a report that an elderly victim in Welshpool received a phone call from a man stating he was from the fraud department with the bank.

The man said he had noticed an unauthorised transaction and needed to confirm the victim's card details.

He said his name was Ian Dixon and gave a reference of RED2017. The victim gave card details but was concerned and later contacted police, who discovered a fraudulent transaction had been made.

Pc Thomas Marshall said: "We advise anyone who believes their card details have been compromised to cancel any card associated with the bank account."

Man punched in road rage incident

A DRIVER got out of his car to punch a man in a road rage incident.

Police have appealed for witnesses to the assault that occurred on Mill Lane in Welshpool at the entrance to a boarded up building site in the town at 6.15pm on Thursday last week.

A spokesman for Dyfed-Powys Police said: "A white male, aged mid to late 20s wearing a Welsh rugby t-shirt, assaulted another male during the incident by punching him three times. The male then drove off in a grey Peugeot estate car. Anyone who witnessed this incident and/or knows the alleged offender should contact Welshpool police station."

Base station plan to boost mobile signal

Report by Andrew Morris

A NEW base station could be built near Welshpool to boost mobile phone signal in Mid Wales.

Vodafone will submit plans to build the base station at Cwm Golau in a bid to increase reception across the region.

The company said it is working with Telefonica, a communications company, as it plans to continue improving its network programme across the region.

Welshpool Town Council was due to discuss the application at its meeting last night (Wednesday).

Base stations receive wireless communications and then transfer them to other areas, such as telephone calls and text messages.

Damian Hosker, for Vodafone and Telefonica, said: "Telefonica and Vodafone plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK."

"They are in the process of identifying a suitable site in the Welshpool area for an upgrade to an existing radio base station. As part of the continued network improvement programme, there is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at this location to provide enhanced coverage in the area."

"Without base stations, the mobile phones and other devices we rely on simply won't work."

The company expects to submit the plans to Powys County Council after the town council has considered its response.

Family pays tribute to crash victim



Isobelle Charlotte Woodall, 19, from Belan, near Welshpool

FURTHER tributes have been paid to a teenager who was killed in a car crash.

Isobelle Charlotte Woodall, 19, from Belan, near Welshpool, died following the crash in Wigan.

Her family paid tribute to her, saying she was loved by everyone who knew her.

In a statement, they said: "Isobelle was a happy, fun loving and affectionate girl who at 19 years of age was just finding her place in the world."

"She was loved by everyone who knew her."

"As a family we have been left bereft at her leaving us but she will always be alive in our hearts."

Isobelle was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on Central Parkway in Wigan at 9.15pm on August 16.

It is believed she was travelling with her boyfriend Steven as a passenger in a black Peugeot 206 which was in collision with a white Ford Focus ST.

An inquest was opened and adjourned at Bolton Coroner's Court. A full hearing will be held on a date to be confirmed.

Festival will help boost charity cash

A "MINI Glastonbury" festival will be coming to the Mid Wales countryside on Bank Holiday Monday to raise funds for a children's eye cancer charity.

Heidi Andrew is organising the festival in aid of the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust, which helps to fight retinoblastoma in children.

The 27-year-old will be using her father and step-mother's field in Trewern, near Welshpool, for the festival, which will include a line-up of six bands and a barbecue dinner.

The festival fundraiser kicks off at 1pm and guests will be entertained by the likes of Bethan Bryan, You Can Call Me Al, Shifty Chicken Shed (unplugged), Monterey Jack and The Malcontents, Cathy Beech and The Vercettis.

There are only 100 tickets available for the fundraising event on a first come first served basis. Tickets cost £10 and children are free. The ticket price includes entertainment, a barbecue and a glass of wine or soft drink.

On the day, there will be plenty of games to keep the children entertained. Contact Heidi at heidiandrew1@email.com

Rush hour delay after cars collide

A TWO-CAR crash caused rush hour delays on a main road near Welshpool.

The cars collided close to the Garth Derwen junction on the A458 at Bultington, near Welshpool. Emergency crews attended at about 4.30pm on Thursday last week. It is believed that nobody was seriously injured.

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Town is a great place for a friendly day out



The impressive Powis Castle is one of the main reasons visitors come to the Welshpool area

THE town of Welshpool is a fantastic place to visit and to enjoy a bit of shopping.

Renowned for its wide and varied selection of independent businesses as well as a variety of national chains, Welshpool offers an unique shopping experience.

Its friendly traders and business people always give a warm welcome to visitors and locals alike.

Sitting just four miles from the

Shropshire border, Welshpool attracts visitors from near and far.

Many visitors come to the area to learn more about its history and heritage.

The town was initially known as Pool but its name was changed to Welshpool in 1835 to distinguish it from the English town of Poole.

The town contains much Georgian architecture and is just north of Powis Castle.

Powis Castle is the main reason many visitors come to the area.

The castle is known for its extensive, attractive formal gardens, terraces, parkland, deer park and landscaped estate.

The property is under the care of the National Trust.

Princess Victoria, later Queen Victoria, visited the castle as a child when her mother took her to tour England and Wales in 1832.

While retail and tourism is an important part of Welshpool's economy, the local economy is primarily based upon agriculture and local industry.



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Specialist town firm has fantastic vintage items



Ashman's is an Aladdin's Cave of vintage clothing, accessories, textiles and antiques

ASHMAN'S Antiques and Old Lace, based in the Mid Wales town of Welshpool, specialises in a wide variety of original ladies', men's and baby clothing along with a vast variety of accessories dating from late 1800 right up to the 1980s.

The proprietor is Diane Ashman. Diane has had a passion for old clothes and materials from a young age – her two aunties had a

Advertising Feature

large trunk of clothing and accessories where Diane would spend many hours dressing up.

Since Ashman's was established in 1975, the business has evolved into an Aladdin's Cave of vintage clothing, accessories, textiles and antiques.

In 1991 Diane and her family moved to Welshpool from Portsmouth bringing the business with them. Now living and working in Welshpool, Diane organises a variety of events such as fashion shows and musicals, also sup-

plying costume for several major film and theatre companies. We regularly hold a stall at some of the biggest clothing, textiles and antiques fairs around the country, as well as holding smaller, local events. Our next big event is the Antiques For Everyone Winter Fair. Come along to the NEC Birmingham, Hall 3a, on November 19-22. Pick up a complementary invitation from Diane at Ashman's Antiques.

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Their cold drinks menu is also extensive and include mouth watering smoothies, iced teas, Italian sodas, frappes, and fresh Shmoo milkshakes, and all drinks hot or cold are also available for take out. If you are feeling peckish then they've got that covered too, with a food menu that offers snacks such as soups, paninis, toasties, jacket potatoes, sandwiches, and Coopers famous sausage rolls or if you are looking for a breakfast then there's Wolfy's porridge, bacon ciabattas or beans on toast topped with either cheese, bacon or both.

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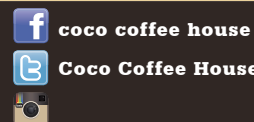
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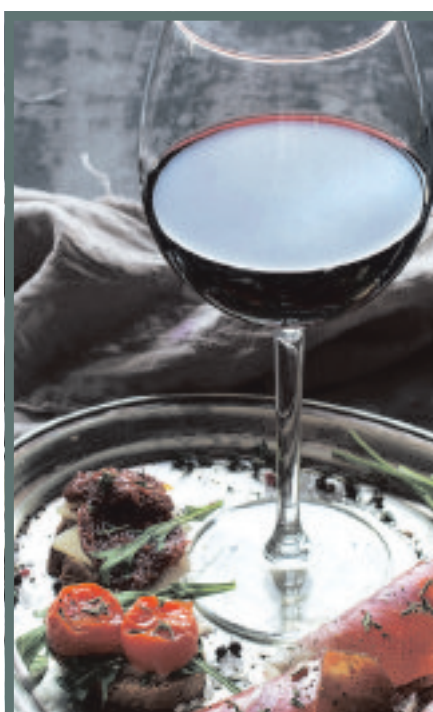


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Picture focus



Adcote School's Ruby Mullins, Olivia Callaghan and Lara Williamson



Ella and Grace Newbrook from Moreton Hall School celebrate their results



Sophie Donnelly and Rhys Davies from The Marches School



Oswestry School headmaster Julian Noad with students Alexandra Dewing, Martin Pace-Bonello, James Wigley and Emily Lacey

Top marks for talented pupils

STUDENTS have been celebrating another excellent year for GCSE results.

Moreton Hall School near Oswestry celebrated what its principal described as "a vintage year for GCSE results", with nearly 40 per cent of pupils achieving straight As and A*s. Overall 40 per cent of the exams were passed with an A* grade and 71 per cent at A* and A.

School principal Jonathan Forster said: "These are outstanding results that reflect exceptional students, excellent teaching and Moreton's commitment to rigorous academic standards."

Twins Ella and Grace Newbrook celebrated their 16th birthday by collecting outstanding GCSE results. Between them they achieved 11 A*s and nine As.

Adcote School in Little Ness was among the best performing schools in the county with a 99.6 per cent pass rate, with 88 per cent of all grades at A* to C and almost 40 per cent of all grades at A* or A.

Pupils at Oswestry School celebrated excel-

Report by Pam Kingsley

lent results, with 72 per cent earning five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and maths. Even more impressive, a third of all GCSE entries were graded A* and A.

Julian Noad, headmaster of Oswestry School said: "As ever, pupils have worked incredibly hard and one can only admire the commitment and determination of those young people who manage to achieve high grades across such a broad range of disciplines."

At Marches School in Oswestry 250 students received their GCSE results, with 74 per cent of students achieved an A* to C grade in English and 71 per cent in maths.

Nia Garry was one of the school's top achievers with nine A* and two A grades. She said: "I am literally over the moon. I have worked hard and these are the results I was aiming for but it is such a relief to receive them."

The GCSE results at The Maelor School at Penley were again some of the best in the country. Three quarters of all students achieved the important 5A*-C including English and Maths measure.



Students were jumping for joy at The Maelor School at Penley



Nia Garry and Ellie James from The Marches School



Lucy Burn, Isobel Earnshaw and Emily Shail from The Marches School celebrate

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David Owen from Cambrian Heritage Railways and Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington take a look at the lamp which honours the railway's war dead



Members of the public attended the ceremony at the rail station

Sacrifice honoured

A LAMP has been lit at a railway station in memory of three rail workers who died in the Gallipoli campaign in the First World War 100 years ago.

Cambrian Heritage Railways in Oswestry is holding a series of commemorations to pay tribute to the 53 men from the railway who were killed in the war.

Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington lit the lamp for the Gallipoli men at the town centre railway station, the headquarters of the restora-

Report by Sue Austin

tion organisation. The men were Eric Harries from Aberystwyth who was employed at Oswestry locomotive works, Stanley Mason who was from Newbridge on Wye and Thomas Mills from Oswestry who worked as a booking clerk in Rhayader.

A fascinating audio recording was also officially switched on within the station. Andrew Tullo from the heritage railway group said: "We located an audio recording by a Cambrian

man, John Humphreys, who was the station master at Llanymynech and who survived the war.

"This recording has become a permanent part of the exhibition."

The exhibition is open every day and admission is free.

The rail group also commissioned Castle Fine Arts Foundry of Llanrhaeadr to clean the Railway Memorial in Cae Glas Park, Oswestry, which remembers the 53 railway men who were killed.



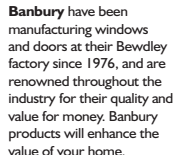
Cambrian Heritage Railways' David Owen and Andrew Tullo, with Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington, speak about the war project

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College offers a whole host of new courses



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The courses will be starting in the weeks commencing September 7 and September 14.

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include HNDs in business, equine and interactive media, ILM qualifications in leadership and management, counselling, floristry and personal training to name but a few. At Walford and Shipley campuses, the Level 2 Diploma in Veterinary Care Assistants is a new part-time course which has already proved popular with new applicants.

Some courses are free for people who meet relevant funding criteria.

There is a huge variety of leisure courses available. Many courses such as history of art, pottery and dog han-

dling are popular annually. New leisure courses include baby massage, plumbing skills, folk, fiddle, flute and mandolin, small animal care, basic motorcycle, social media in business and many, many more. It is now easier to join leisure courses at NSC with the new 'Book Online' facility which allows participants to pay on-line at www.nsc.ac.uk/part-time-courses/book-online.

For more information on part-time courses at NSC, visit www.nsc.ac.uk or call 01691 688000.



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Dismay at theft of fake speed camera

A FAKE speed camera that was put up in a Shropshire village to slow down motorists has been stolen.

The yellow painted cardboard box was put up in desperation on the side of the road in the centre of Knockin, near Oswestry, by resident Peter Richardson.

But within a couple of weeks the makeshift device had vanished.

Julie Stevenson, from The Knockin Shop in the village, said she was very disappointed by the theft.

She said: "Someone stole the box last week. To be honest I think it's disgusting."

"It was put up in an attempt to slow vehicles down and it was working."

"The motorists really did put the brakes on when they saw the box. Why someone would take it I have no idea."

Residents, who are now bracing themselves for a busy bank holiday weekend, say they have been calling for traffic calming for the busy road for years.

Chance to take pencil on a tour

ARTISTS of all standards are invited to take their pencils on a tour to sketch different types of architecture.

The town sketch crawl will take place on September 12 around Oswestry and has been organised by the town's Willow Gallery.

Led by artist David Bannister, the tour will start at 10am in the studio, where he will teach perspective and various methods and techniques for drawing complex architectural forms and interior spaces. The day will cost £30 and students will need to bring a sketchbook and sketching materials.

Advance booking is advised by calling (01691) 657575.

Hospice benefits from donations from business

Report by Lucy Todman

BRAND new toys, bedding and electrical goods were just some of the items donated to a children's hospice charity shop in Shrewsbury in memory of an Oswestry couple.

Staff and customers of the Darwin Shopping Centre's QVC store collected a range of new items which have been donated to Hope House Hospice's Shoplatch shop to raise cash to support children with life-limiting conditions.

QVC chose Hope House thanks to sales assistant and store charity co-ordinator, Kelly Roberts. She said: "It's something that's really close to my heart as my nan and granddad lived in Morda, very close to Hope House. They did a huge amount of fund raising for the hospice over many years."

"My nan, June Roberts, who died about 15 years ago, could see the hospice from her kitchen window. And there is a painting on the wall inside the hospice dedicated to her memory."

"And my granddad, Alfred, who everyone knew as Ronnie, also did a lot of fund-raising and carried on after my nan died. He passed away about three years ago. At Christmas, when we started collecting goods to be donated for charity purposes, I explained to staff members who didn't know too much about Hope House all about the important work they do."

"QVC donated a lot of brand new goods such as toys, kitchen equipment and bedding. Our customers were really generous too."



Kelly Roberts presents gifts to Carol Arliss and Erica Brogan from the Hope House shop

Ploughevent is set to take place at farm

CRUCKTON Ploughing Match celebrates its 83rd match this year and will be held at Hanley Hall, West Felton.

Organisers have thanked David Morris who has agreed to host the ploughing match on September 19.

Cruckton Ploughing Society secretary Helen Davies said the match was held there five years ago when the event had a fantastic display of both tractor and horse ploughmen and organisers were hoping for a repeat this year. She said: "We are very grateful to the David Morris for allowing the competitions to be held on the farm, the society needs up to 100 acres of ground to accommodate all the ploughing and increased number of trade stands and demonstrations."

The site is located just off the A5 by the Shottaton crossroads and will be well signposted on the day. Ploughing starts at 10am. Admission into the match is £6 with children going free, there is also free car parking and a match programme.

The match will be followed by a Sunday lunch to be held in the Knockin Village Hall on September 20. Tickets are priced at £22.50, for enquiries contact (01938) 590535.

Golf day will boost charity's funding

A GOLF day will be held in aid of the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) at a golf club near Oswestry.

The event will take place at Henlle Park Golf Club in Gobowen on September 18.

Teams of four are invited to enter the event at a cost of £130 per team which includes 18 holes of golf and a meal after. To enter a team contact Daphne Evans on (01939) 200261.

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Get out and about this Bank Holiday break



The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is a great attraction to visit over the Bank Holiday weekend

WITH the summer still with us and the Bank Holiday weekend now here, there has never been a better time to go exploring the wonders of the Oswestry and Welshpool area.

The region has plenty to offer all members of the family.

One of Oswestry's most popular attractions is the town's Cae Glas Park. Right in the town centre, the beauti-

ful park has been a site for leisure and relaxation for generations.

On the edge of town sits Old Oswestry Hillfort, one of the most important monuments of its kind in Europe. A climb up to the top is enjoyable for all the family, and the sights offered once you get there give you a great view of Oswestry and the surrounding area. Another site which offers picturesque views of the region is the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Oswestry.

The aqueduct carries the Llangollen

Canal which itself is popular with boaters, cyclists, runners and walkers. The Montgomery Canal is also proving to be a growing attraction for visitors.

The Mid Wales canal offers a great day out and work is continuing to have it reopened to its original state when it was a vital waterway for industry.

The area is also not short of historic buildings with Powis Castle near Welshpool, Whittington Castle and Chirk Castle also proving popular with families over Bank Holiday weekends.

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Writing is on wall for local library provision

LIBRARIES

Libraries have been one area where local government cuts have already started to take effect.

Shropshire Council has been in the process of offloading management of its libraries in a bid to save £670,000 over the next two years. The intention is that 15 of Shropshire's libraries would be managed by community organisations, while the county's seven principal libraries become "community hubs" working in partnership with other bodies.

In a report on the future of the county's libraries, Michael Lewis, manager of the service for Shropshire Council, said: "The council's vision is that traditional face-to-face services will be delivered by community-based organisations that will maximise the resources available locally and create welcoming and accessible hubs of activity."

The move has not been without controversy with the Church Stretton Library Support Group taking legal action in a bid to reverse Shropshire Council's decision to move the town's library to the nearby school.

Money will be found to protect the vulnerable

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

There is no greater illustration of the problems facing councils and their budgets than the difficulties in providing adult social care.

Shropshire Council overspent by more than £6 million on adult care last year, despite managing a saving of £300,000 on its overall budget of more than £200 million.

Councillor Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council, has said that money will be found to ensure the most vulnerable are protected – although the knock-on effect leaves other services vulnerable.

About £5.8 million of the overspend in adult care was put down to the growing number of people the council has to look after.

Councillor Barrow said: "Adult social care is one budget where we are constantly under pressure. We have a £6 million overspend and that is despite the fact we have made phenomenal savings."

Councillor Barrow explained that increased life expectancy was one thing which means that costs are unlikely to be reduced in coming years.

Bin collections to remain a hotly debated subject

REFUSE COLLECTION

What could the financial strain mean for the collection of bins across the county?

It is one of the council services most valued by the public and one to which any changes would surely attract fierce opposition.

Campaigners have argued that even fortnightly bin collections in Shropshire and neighbouring Telford and Wrekin have led to an increase in fly tipping.

It is understood fly-tipping costs Telford & Wrekin Council in the region of £250,000 a year to clean up, with nearly 4,000 reported incidents from April 2013 to March 2014 – an average of 11 a day.

Shropshire Council had to deal with nearly 1,700 incidents over the same 12-month period – a rate of nearly five a day.

One thing is for certain, any move to reduce the frequency of bin collections in Shropshire would certainly not be welcomed by the public who often cite bin collections as the service they most value from councils.

SERVICES UNDER THREAT

Report by Dominic Robertson

THE merging of authorities surely wasn't supposed to end up quite like this.

When district and borough councils were subsumed into the new Shropshire unitary authority, many people thought services would continue largely as before, only with different branding.

But the recession had already started by then – and worse, for local authority budgets, was to follow. Over the past six years Shropshire and its neighbour Telford & Wrekin have had to cut more than £150 million from their budgets. Now, with no end to the financial squeeze in sight, the question is what will local government look like in the next 10 years?

Richard Partington, managing director of Telford & Wrekin Council, has described the current budgetary pressures as the authority's "biggest ever challenge", while Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council, has openly stated that the organisation will have no choice but to stop providing some of its services.

Shropshire Council has already started to get rid of some of its libraries, and has also called on other organisations to take over youth services.

Councillor Barrow pulled no punches regarding the future of the authority as he warned that the increasing costs of adult social care, and the reduction of Government funding, will leave other services in the firing line.

He said: "What we are trying to do is look forward, certainly five years to 2020 when we believe we will have lost the total amount of the Revenue Support Grant and the consequence of losing that money is we will probably have to find another £100 million.

Pressures

"We won't have enough money to do everything we are doing now. In fact, if the pressures continue to grow on the adult social care budget then there won't be enough money to do much more than pay for adult social care and children's services."

Councillor Barrow said he does not yet know what services will be cut but that it will be up to members of the public to speak up in favour of the ones they believe are most important.

Mr Partington said: "The challenge that still lies ahead is huge with further cuts to our grant from central Government to come. Services will have to change, some will have to be reduced, some will have to be stopped. Some very difficult decisions lie ahead.

"We have been determined for a long time that we will not just be victims of the cuts. I truly believe that 'the best way to predict the future is to invent it.'"

So what does the future hold and what methods can authorities use to tackle the problems?

One idea designed to reduce the costs of local government is a suggestion favoured by Councillor Barrow – the creation of what is known as a commissioning council.

Commissioning councils do not provide their services through their own staff, they instead order them from other organisations, meaning they can theoretically run with far fewer employees. Councillor Barrow said: "With a commissioning council people make it sound very complicated but it really is very simple. We create a council which would initially be about 400 people and they would then commission other people and organisations to deliver services we require."

Another initiative favoured by both councils is to look at making money through their own commercial endeavours – Shropshire Council with the creation of ip&e, a company owned by the council which sells services across the country, and with Telford & Wrekin through the construction of its own solar farm.

But these initiatives are not without contro-



Protesters from Ludlow who claim privatisation of council services is damaging local democracy arrived at Shirehall en-masse in May, with Dr Sandy Robertson at the fore



County libraries have already born the brunt of cuts and some are being run in a different way



Councils are having to deal with the rising costs of social care

versy. More than 50 campaigners descended on Shirehall to protest against what they have branded "the privatisation of Shropshire Council services" in May.

Representatives from Ludlow Campaign for Fairness attended Shropshire Council's annual meeting to raise vocal criticism of ip&e. Sandy Robertson, chairman of the campaign group, said the campaigners did not believe that ip&e's work is accountable to the public.

Different tiers of local government could also have a role to play, with councils like Shrewsbury Town Council leading the way and showing they can fill some of the gaps being left by bigger organisations.

Helen Ball, clerk of the council, said: "Shrewsbury Town Council has always held the vision of 'putting Shrewsbury first' and the facilities that we provide like the Quarry, parks and play areas, allotments, flowers and Christmas lights and sporting facilities are important for maintaining Shrewsbury as the happy, safe place that we all love."

While many have accepted the necessity of the Government austerity measures there are still a significant number of vocal opponents who see the continuing reduction in funding as potentially devastating for communities.

Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of Shropshire Council's Labour group, said: "In all respects the current Government's ideology is leading to measures that are leading to severe contraction in all respects. This is particularly through the devastating cuts in funding, and more draconian cuts have recently been announced, and a growing emphasis on the privatisation of service provision." Councillor Mosley said the situation has seen many services move from the direct control of elected councillors.

He said: "In Shropshire this means that more and more services are being contracted out to the private sector or ip&e, while others are being significantly reduced and commissioned, like day care centres and youth services.

"Already many services, such as highways, street cleansing, waste, highways, recreation, much social care and education services have gone from direct control."

So what does Shropshire Council's chief executive Clive Wright make of the situation?

He says: "We are in unprecedented times where in the UK our national borrowing and debt must be brought under control to ensure economic sustainability and prosperity for future generations. The government has said

that we must be a nation that "lives within its means". This challenge has provided a catalyst for unprecedented innovation in how the state will work with citizens. But borrowing and debt alone are not our only strategic issues. We also need to provide sufficient and affordable housing, care for an increasingly ageing population and grow our economy while significantly improving productivity.

"It is clear that the future will be one of greater self-reliance, self-responsibility and individual participation in the wellbeing of our communities.

"Although economic growth is strong in the UK compared to Europe and other competitor world economies, our levels of productivity are comparatively low and this is a significant problem for us to address. Change is not just needed in the public sector, but in the private sector as well. On all fronts we must work closer together.

"In response, the public sector is evolving at a pace and scale never seen before, driven by massive reductions in government funding.

"In some parts of the UK there are plans for some authorities and public bodies to combine to deliver particular outcomes more efficiently in return for new powers from government.

These deals under the banner of "devolution" make local authorities and their partners more accountable for growing their economies, increasing productivity and transforming public services. In Shropshire we are exploring all of these opportunities with our local public sector partners and also by working closely with neighbouring councils.

"Shropshire Council has worked hard to make services as efficient as they can be. Between 2009 and March 31 2014, the council delivered £88m of savings and the current Financial Strategy 2014/17 identifies proposals to achieve a further £80m by 2017.

"Often we have delivered service improvement as well as savings. For example, our adult social care services are the lowest cost in the UK per person, while also being independently assessed as the highest quality.

"However, this masks the changes ahead as further government cuts are applied and Shropshire Council will no longer be able to provide the range of services that it does now. Looking after vulnerable people and growing our economy will remain our priority.

"As well as making savings Shropshire Council has also invested in future proofing our economy."

Police boss says more bobbies are on the beat

THERE are more bobbies on the beat in Shropshire – and across the West Mercia force area – because of controversial station closures, crime commissioner Bill Longmore has said.

The police chief was speaking after it was revealed more bases could close in the county on top of the seven that have already gone since 2013.

Whitchurch, Bridgnorth and the front counter service in Shrewsbury town centre could be the next to go to save cash.

They would join Albrighton, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, Ellesmere, Newport, Much Wenlock and Shifnal which have all already shut.

A community policing post has been set up in Ellesmere at the town hall, after the station was sold off for £140,000.

Officers have been relocated to Oswestry police station and respond as necessary, with the move saving £33,041 annually in running costs, bosses say.

Mr Longmore said there was a strong case for change.

"The Government has consistently continued to cut the amount of funding we get in West Mercia," he said.

"We have to find ways of trying to sustain the same levels of service, with significantly less money."

"I have worked closely with the Chief Constable to try and find ways of saving money, without compromising the level of service people get."

"Every aspect of policing here has been reviewed to try and find more efficient ways of working, and what we found in those reviews was that some of our police stations and buildings simply did not represent good value for money to the public purse."

Drill campaigners vow to help others in battle

Report by Rebecca King

A CAMPAIGN group has pledged to support areas starting a fight against fracking plans – despite its own battle having come to an end.

Frack Free Dudgeon, which was set up last year to fight plans to drill for gas in Dudgeon Heath near Ellesmere, has said it will continue by helping other areas that may soon be considered for fracking.

Last week the government awarded new licences to companies to explore for oil and gas in 27 areas including near Nottingham, Sheffield, Lincoln and Preston.

Other areas – including Audlem, near Market Drayton – have been labelled as a possibility following further environmental assessment and conditions to protect wildlife and habitats.

Chris Hesketh, leader of Frack Free Dudgeon, said: "This news reveals the 14th round of fracking licences which is dramatically smaller than the initial offering that was announced. Almost all of Shropshire was offered in the 14th round and yet there are now no new licence blocks being offered in the county. Our relief though should be tempered by sympathy for those people who do now find themselves in a licence area for the first time."

"Although after our hard-won campaign we can breathe a sigh of relief here in Dudgeon, it is important that we support others who are battling to protect their areas from becoming gas fields."

The Dudgeon campaigners won their fight against the coal bed methane drilling threat after the plans were dropped by energy firm bosses.

Cash boost from young farmers



Members of the Young Farmers Club hand over the cheque to hospital staff

A YOUNG Farmers Club has donated £500 to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to buy new equipment for the endoscopy unit.

Llanfair Caereinion YFC raised £1,000 through a duck race at a caravan park in May, with £500 being donated to the unit and the remaining £500 going to the club.

The money donated to the endoscopy unit will go towards the purchase of a water foot pump for use with endoscopes, and will help improve the visualisation of the colon. As a result it will make it easier to detect bowel polyps, some of which have the potential to develop into cancer if not removed.

The pump will be primarily used in the NHS Bowel Scope Programme, which offers bowel cancer screening to all 55-year-olds and is currently being rolled out at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, which runs the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

Indecent exposure at nature reserve

POLICE are investigating an incident of indecent exposure at a nature reserve.

Dryden-Powys Police are appealing for witnesses following the incident at the Coed-y-Dinas Nature Reserve, near Sarn-y-Bryn Caled, Welshpool. It happened between 11am and 1.30pm on Saturday.

Meanwhile police are appealing for witnesses or information about damage which was caused to a vehicle.

Vandals attacked a car parked in the Oldford Estate in Welshpool on August 3 at about 3pm when both front tyres were punctured using nails. On August 8 the same vehicle was damaged on Gungrog Road, Welshpool where all four tyres were punctured and black paint was thrown on the rear.

And police are looking for two women after a purse was stolen from a handbag which was left in a public toilet block. The purse was taken between 12.15pm and 12.30pm at the toilets in Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool on August 15.

New B&M store is set for town

A NEW discount superstore is set to open in the Oswestry area. The B&M Bargains chain is advertising for new store assistants and management staff on its website.

Although it already has a shop in the town centre, it is believed the company may open a larger unit on the edge of town, complete with a garden centre. Jobs include shop assistants, cleaners, customer service and replenishment managers as well as supervisors. The news comes as the Homebase store in Oswestry has announced a closing down sale at its branch on Salop Road in the town.

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The factors driving up farmland value remain

UNCERTAINTY has been a key market factor in the farming industry over the past year, in the build-up to the recent election and last year's Scottish Referendum, but the fundamental factors driving UK farmland value growth remain.

Supply is historically low, the product is finite, competing land uses and diverse ownership motives all ensure value growth remains positive, but what does the current market mean for farm rental values?

Rob Timmins, rural chartered surveyor at Savills West Midlands said: "Agricultural incomes are inversely correlated to economic growth, and continued improvements in the economic climate will put some pressure on farm incomes, and therefore capital and rental values across all sectors.

"In the same way that the transactional market for farmland is influenced by a lack of land to buy, in certain locations, scarcity is for some land types affecting the farmland rental market.

"Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) rents for combinable cropping land continue to trade across a broad range of values; £58 to £250 per acre for rents settled last autumn.

"However, it is important to make the distinction between these values; lower level rents were for land which was reclaimed following mineral extraction and as such can be classed as concessionary rents. Those at the higher end, which were for larger blocks on terms of over five years, increased by 25 per cent."

He said that the continued scarcity means that despite falling commodity prices, demand remains healthy for good-sized blocks of cereal and oilseed rape-growing land.

Savills expects average farmland rental values across Great Britain to grow at around six per cent per annum over the next five years, but there will be significant variations in the rates of growth.

Huge rise in farming land on the market

THE amount of farmland on the market has shot up, after a spell of being in historically short supply.

The increase coming to the market has been sustained over the second quarter of 2015, according to Strutt & Parker's Farmland Database.

Despite the increased supply and challenging times for the farming industry, average land prices remain at record levels.

The database, which tracks farms and estates over 100 acres on the market, shows that 41,550 acres came on to the English land market between April and June 2015, compared with just 18,625 acres in the comparable period last year.

Mark McAndrew, partner in Strutt & Parker's estate and farm agency department, says: "This is partly down to a small number of investors who have decided the time is right for them to take their profit.

"There has also been an increase in the number of 100-400-acre blocks or small farms coming to the market across the country. After a couple of years of poor commodity prices some people are deciding to retire or others may be looking to raise some cash and take advantage of the continuing high prices.

"It means buyers in today's market have a much wider choice of opportunities available to them than they did in 2014 - from bare blocks of land through to country estates.

"But while there has been an increase in the amount of land coming on to the market compared to this time last year, if you look back, you see that last year was an anomaly and we are back to more 'normal' levels."

Average arable land prices in England rose to £10,463/acre in the second quarter of 2015, compared with a three-year rolling average of £9,025/acre.

The biggest rise was seen in the south-east of England where prices are now closely matching those seen in the east of England. Hampshire in particular has seen some high premiums paid for land.

Catch crop suits the flexible system



Shrewsbury farmer Jonathan Cornes

Winter forage crops make use of otherwise fallow land, mop up nutrients, improve soil structure, and provide cost-effective feed to over-winter lambs, according to Shrewsbury-based farmer Jonathan Cornes.

He buys in around 15,000 lambs to fatten every autumn and grows around 245ha of stubble turnips, as a catch crop, for them to graze over the winter on his 365-hectare mixed sheep, beef and arable unit, based at Bayston Hill in Shropshire and other arable farms in the county.

"It's a crop that suits our system really well," he explains. "Stubble turnips offer

flexibility - we can 'hold' the lambs for market. On a corn-fed system, they'd all be ready at once and in a relatively short period of time. The forage crop allows us to sell lambs, in batches, from Christmas through to May," he says, adding that around 30 per cent are sold to Morrisons and the rest through markets at Shrewsbury and Welshpool.

Jonathan has grown Limagrain UK's stubble turnip variety Samson for more than a decade, sowing the crop from mid July through to the end of August, after barley.

"It sometimes follows wheat, if we har-

vest it early enough. But the end of August is the cut-off point for sowing stubble turnips on our unit," he says.

Shallow soil cultivations help to keep the cost of growing the crop down and this year Jonathan plans to use a disc air seeder so he can sow the crop in one pass - at a rate of 3kg/hectare - before rolling it. He may also apply a top dressing of between 60 and 90kgN/ha or some chicken manure.

The stubble turnips provide the lambs with plenty of high-quality forage from 12 weeks after sowing and right up until early March.

Solar panel system gets off to good start



Farmers Martin, Joe and Helen Davies have installed a 2,000-panel solar array on their former dairy farm

A SHROPSHIRE farming family is hoping for plenty of sun this summer after installing a 2,000-panel solar array on their former dairy farm.

Martin Davies has lived on his farm in the Shropshire Hills, near Shrewsbury, all his life and remembers his father farming the land almost as far as the eye can see. He now lives with wife Helen and grown-up sons Joe and Tom.

Originally dairy, beef and sheep farmers, the Davies family sold off the dairy herd in 2012 due to falling milk prices. They then

began looking for an alternative income stream to replace the revenue lost from milk. A trip to an energy show in 2013 led them to think about solar - they were interested in the government-guaranteed, index-linked income from the Feed-in Tariff (FIT), which is paid for every unit of electricity produced, and decided to find out more.

Following an open day at Bowler Energy's head office in Derbyshire, the family decided to opt for a 500kW ground-mounted system, which consisted of 2,000 solar panels and 16 inverters. It was a big investment, around £520,000, so they appreciated the reassurance that the energy firm would provide a full, turnkey solution.

The installation commenced in April 2014: "We had a lot of help from Bowler Energy in getting everything sorted out, and the ongoing support has been very good," said Martin.

The system was installed in a field and once construction was completed the sheep were allowed back in to graze underneath the panels which meant they didn't lose any pasture.

Do they have any regrets?: "Not at all, in fact we are looking at extending the system by adding 200kW of additional PV panels," said son Joe.

The current 500kW system is expected to generate in the region of 464,500kWh per year, giving a total annual income of

£60,617, which would be a return on investment of 11.65 per cent and a payback period of around 8.6 years.

The Davies family has chosen to export all the energy produced, but a site with a high-energy requirement could use much of the electricity produced, which would give a greater return on investment and a shorter payback.

Although the panels haven't been in place for a full 12 months yet, at the end of December they were performing 8.85 per cent better than forecast.

With very little input needed from the family, who are delighted with the results, it's a bit of a change from the old dairy days at the farm.

Fantastic one-day show to be held at picturesque site

KINGTON Show will be held on Saturday, September 12, again at the picturesque site of The Ovals Farm, Kington, in the heart of the Herefordshire countryside.

Still blazing a trail after nearly a century and a half, Kington Show continues to go from strength to strength, and is reckoned to be among the finest shows in the country.

It is a traditional agricultural show with horses, cattle and sheep classes culminating with a grand parade of livestock. There will be dog and horticultural classes together with Young Farmers and shearing competitions. There will be something for everyone, even an after-show dance.

Nearly 200 trade stands will be at the event, with many local producers, arts and crafts, food, tools, toys, clothes, tractors - and much more.

Nick Layton, from Lyonshall, will be serving his third



There will be lots of entertainment on offer and final year as chairman of the show. "Its increasing popularity as Herefordshire's premier one-day show is due in part to an unshakeable dedication from the large

team of helpers who willingly devote their time and energy to this major event," said Nick.

Last year with the wonderful weather, the number of people through the gate increased dramatically, breaking the record with well over 10,000 people attending."

Show secretary Clare Edwards said the show is a must, not only on the country calendar, but for townspeople too: "As you can see from the entertainment on offer, there is a huge amount of free entertainment for the whole family."

The Wye Valley Axmen have members from Rhayader, Llanidloes and Newtown areas, with their ages varying from 16 to around 60.

They will also be racing against the shearers - so look out for some real competition.

The Bill Bailey Band play their own brand of foot-tapping New Orleans and Dixieland jazz, with some swing and the odd ballad thrown in.

For more information visit www.kingtonshow.co.uk or phone the secretary on 01432 850444.

Do you have any farming news to share with our readers? Email weeklyeditors@shropshirestar.co.uk

↑Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

23
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, August 27, 2015



Extended cottage has wildlife grounds

Having been enhanced and extended over the years, Bryn Cottage at Nantmawr, Oswestry is an attractive detached property with a range of office/stores. It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £285,000. Its accommodation includes a conservatory with a sheet and slate finished roof, a dining room with an oil-fired range, a tile finished floor and a beamed ceiling. There is a living

room with an original inglenook fireplace with a wood burning grate and hood, a sitting room/bedroom three with a door to the conservatory and a vaulted ceiling. A return staircase leads off the dining room to the first floor landing with valley views. There are two first floor bedrooms. Outside the cottage is set within an irregular plot with lawns and a meadow and woodland area, with the total

site area being around 1.037 acres. Vehicular access leads to a hard standing area with a range of detached bungalows including an office/workshop, a timber garden store and wood store. The gardens have seating areas and lawns and include an organic wildlife area. For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk



Property comes with a range of buildings and pastureland

A 77.19 acre residential stock farm comprising a four bedroom farmhouse with a range of farm buildings and pastureland is on the market with Halls. Grove Farm, Maesbrook, Oswestry is situated in a private, peaceful position between the villages of Maesbrook and Melverley. The farm is available as a whole or divided and price is on application to Halls. The land surrounds the farmstead and is divided into conveniently sized enclosures. Contact Halls on 01743 450700.



Town's landmark building is up for sale for £750,000

A building which housed the world's first mail order business, serving royalty, Florence Nightingale, and diplomats across the world, has been put up for sale. The Royal Welsh Warehouse in Newtown, a landmark building which was built by entrepreneur and former Montgomeryshire MP, Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones, has been put on the market for £750,000 plus VAT. Kathryn Davies, chartered surveyor at estate agents Morris, Marshall and Poole, who are acting on the sale, said the historic building would provide an excellent investment opportunity.

3 The Parade, cabin Lane, Oswestry

- A modern lock-up retail unit with a shell finish extending to approx 560 sqft (52sqm) with on-site car parking.
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- Available on new lease - Rent £6,000pa



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Four bedroom property has period features

This is a rare opportunity to purchase a spacious four bedroom semi-detached property. Greystones Court on Shrewsbury Road is situated on the fringe of the popular market town of Oswestry. The property has period features throughout and offers flexible living accommodation including large entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, boiler room, cellar, four large bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally the property is approached over a gravelled driveway leading to private gardens, patio and ample off road parking. Offers in the region of £279,500. Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 652367.



Detached home in pleasant rural position

Julohn, 2 Bryngwilla, Rhyn Lane, St Martins, is a three bedroomed detached house occupying a pleasant rural position with opportunity for further improvement. The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co, there is no chain and the price is £210,000. Accommodation includes a reception hall, sitting room, living room, dining kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom and garaging and good sized garden. Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212 for more details.



Home is in the heart of picturesque valley

With no chain, Minfford is a deceptively spacious semi-detached house located in the heart of the Ceiriog Valley in the picturesque and sought after village of Llanarmon DC. It is on the market with Town & Country and offers are in excess of £135,000. The property boasts three bedrooms, modern bathroom and attractive kitchen with an extensive range of units and breakfast/eating area. The property has a light and spacious feel and takes in much of the surrounding countryside. For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Detached family home has range of farm buildings

Cloddiau at Aberbechan comprises a delightful detached two storey family home. It is on the market through Halls at £395,000. The ground floor accommodation briefly provides for open-plan sitting/dining room, farmhouse style kitchen, cellar and parlour, with five bedrooms and family bathroom on the first floor. There is a range of traditional farm buildings including former dairy, brick and timber built barns with potential, subject to usual planning controls, for conversion to residential, light industrial or other uses, piggery, poultry house and loose boxes. For more details contact Halls on 01938 555552.



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House retains period features

Talbot House is an attractive Grade II-listed Georgian town house in the centre of Ellesmere. With accommodation over three floors it has a variety of period features such as wooden floors and fireplaces. It is for sale through Balfours at £350,000. Downstairs there is an entrance hall, kitchen, dining room, boot room/back hall, sitting room, utility and store room. On the first floor, there is the large master bedroom which has a period fireplace, a further bedroom and the family bathroom. On the second floor there are three bedrooms. Outside, but attached to the house, are some outhouses which are currently used as a utility and a log store. There is a driveway providing parking and a garage. The garden is laid to lawn. For further information contact Balfours on 01743 353511 or visit www.balfours.co.uk

Balfours
property professionals



Highly desirable smallholding

The Hollies at Aberhafesp comprises a highly desirable and individual rural smallholding and offers a charming period five bedroom, three reception family home together with a useful range of outbuildings set in glorious gardens and paddocks extending in all to approximately 8.175 acres. It is on the market through Halls with offers in excess of £495,000. The accommodation is generous and well laid out and is perfectly suited to a large family with two separate lounge/sitting rooms situated at either end of the house. The outbuildings comprise a two bay, open fronted carport and timber frame stable block as well as other ancillary buildings. Of particular note are the beautiful gardens, which are well stocked with a wealth of colour and variety as well as the wildlife pool which attracts a diverse range of wildfowl and other native wildlife and can be viewed pleasantly from the house and front garden patios. The land is down to pasture with some trees planted and is ideal for domestic livestock and/or horses and ponies. For more information contact Halls on 01938 555552.

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Church Lane
St Martins
£194,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow located in a quiet residential area
- Large plot with front, side and rear gardens, single garage & parking
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- The property is in need of modernisation throughout
- Has the potential to be a wonderful family home.
- Electric heating and timber D/G. EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN



Y Berllan
Llangedwyn
£169,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- In an elevated position with views over and across the Tanat Valley
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- Garden Room, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Front and side gardens including large gravelled driveway and single garage.
- Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout. EPC rating



School Road
Ruyton XI Towns
£250,000

- An excellent period family home extending to 4 bedrooms
- The property has been tastefully extended and renovated
- Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility
- Ground Floor Shower Rm & adjoining Living Room/Ground Floor Bed
- 3 Bedrooms, Study and Family Bathroom.
- Courtyard styled private gardens and off road parking
- UPVC double glazing and Oil C/H. EPC Rating G



Victoria Road
Oswestry
£129,995

- A well positioned and deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom End Terrace Property
- Situated within an excellent location within easy walking distance of Oswestry town centre
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- Private rear garden and ample off road parking for two vehicles.
- uPVC double glazed windows and Gas central heating. EPC Rating
- This property should be of interest to first time buyers and investor purchasers.

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2.00pm

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LOT 1 AUCTION
Pentre Broughton WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £55,000

- Two Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Elevated Gardens
- Pleasant Views
- EPC rating D
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 2 AUCTION
Bridge Street WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £35,000

- Situated in a secondary trading position within walking distance of TC
- Provides excellent scope for works of upgrading this freehold two storey inter-terraced investment
- Presently utilised as offices
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 3 AUCTION
Harmer Hill SHREWSBURY
Guide Price Over £50,000

- Former underground reservoir with full planning permission for conversion to holiday accom.
- Spectacular Views
- Between Shrewsbury & Ellesmere
- Contact Oswestry Office



LOT 4 AUCTION
Queens Street LLANGOLLEN
Guide Price Over £50,000

A development opportunity comprising a single residential building plot on level ground near the centre of Llangollen. The plot has outline planning permission granted by Denbighshire County Council on the 6th July 2015 under Code number 03/2014/0616/PO. It is about 0.06 acres (0.02 hectares).



LOT 5 AUCTION
Coedpoeth WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £110,000

- End Terraced Property with DG
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge, Dining Kitchen
- Loft Room
- Views Over Open Countryside
- EPC Rating E
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 6 AUCTION
Marchwiol WREXHAM
Guide Price £320,000-£340,000

A row of four charming terraced cottages. The properties each have similar (handed) accom- living rm, hallway, bath, kit with 2 beds. Communal garden and allocated parking. An excellent investment opportunity. Contact Wrexham Office.



LOT 7 AUCTION
Acrefair LLANGOLLEN
Guide Price Over £75,000

- Detached Residence.
- Two Bedrooms
- Scope For Refurbishment
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- D/Glazing & Gas C/H
- EPC Rating E
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 8 AUCTION
St Martins Nr OSWESTRY
Guide Price £110,000-£130,000

- A mixed commercial and residential investment property consistently achieving a high rental yield.
- Well maintained commercial premises
- Located in the centre of St Martins
- 2 shops, 4 bedsits
- Ideal investment opportunity
- Contact Ellesmere Office



LOT 9 AUCTION
West Felton OSWESTRY
Guide Price Over £300,000

- 37 acres (14.97 ha) of arable land.
- Split into two parcels - 9 acres & 28 acres.
- Road frontage and wide access gateways.
- Contact Ellesmere office for more information



LOT 10 AUCTION
Ruabon WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £70,000

- A 4 bed, CH, Grade II Listed house
- Central village location
- The accommodation is laid out on 3 floors with dining rm, living rm and kit to the ground floor, landing and 2 double beds, bath to the first floor with a further 2 double bedrooms on the second floor
- Ideal investment property.



LOT 11 AUCTION
Cefn Mawr WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £50,000

- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Living Room, Kitchen
- Rear Entrance Hall, Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Fired CH, Small Yard to the rear
- Majority uPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating D



LOT 12 AUCTION
St Martins Nr OSWESTRY
Guide Price Ove £50000

- 0.31 acres (0.13 ha) of accommodation land
- land laid to pasture
- Ideal for agricultural or equine recreational opportunities.
- Frontage on to council maintained lane
- Contact Ellesmere Office



LOT 13 AUCTION
Nr Town Centre WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £60,000

- Excellent investment opportunity for refurbishment and letting or modernisation and occupation by the first time buyer.
- Modern central heating
- Rear yard/original out-offices with raised garden / parking / garage

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Home has enviable views

Number 1 Perry Bank, Upper Hengoed near Oswestry is a five bedroomed detached house with enviable countryside views.

It is for sale through Woodhead Estates with offers in the region of £289,950 and there is no chain.

It has a porch, an entrance hall, a living room and French doors to the garden.

The property also has a dining room, a kitchen and French doors out to the rear garden.

There is also a utility room, bedroom five/study, a WC, a master bedroom with countryside views and an en suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Woodhead Estates on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadestates.com



Desirable country smallholding

Bryn Ceffyl at Dolanog comprises a highly desirable country smallholding with a substantial detached family home. The property, on the market through Halls for offers in excess of £549,500, has a recent extension to provide additional annexe accommodation, a stable yard with a range of loose boxes, an additional steel framed multi-purpose building together with approximately seven acres of pasture land divided into convenient sized enclosures. In the original part of the house there is a large farmhouse style kitchen together with sitting room, reception room 2, front conservatory (ideal for dining in), utility and WC on the ground floor. On the first floor there is a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom as well as three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. The annexe brings a new dimension to the property and offers separate family accommodation for parents, guests or could be let out to provide a further income.

Of particular note are the land and outbuildings which lend themselves well for equine use. For more information contact Halls on 01938 555552.





CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094



The public enjoyed the arts and crafts made by children



Vintage tractors proved to be popular at Guilsfield Show



Horse skills were on display at Guilsfield Show



The dressed heavy horses were judged in the main arena at Guilsfield Show

Show brings in a big crowd

IT'S one of the region's oldest agricultural shows – and it is still drawing in thousands of people every year.

Record numbers of visitors at the annual Guilsfield Show were treated to horse shows, a display of vintage tractors, a horticulture tent full of floral and craft exhibits, and live music in the evening.

Organisers believe about 3,500 people – including local people and holidaymakers – attended this year's show.

Although official numbers have not yet been confirmed, such a figure would be a record the delighted show officials said.

The show was held on Fron y Fele Field in Groeslwyd, near Welshpool.

The popular show has been running for almost 100 years.

Show president Phil Jones said this year's event was another huge success.

Mr Jones, who shares the presidency of the show with his wife Sue, said: "The weather held

Report by Rachel Jenkins

off, and that really helped with the numbers. I would even say it attracted the most visitors we have ever had, it was record breaking.

"It was a really good family day out and everyone enjoyed themselves.

"Visitors came from 9am and stayed out until late in the evening as we had a live band on.

"We had lots of different things going on for people of all ages to enjoy.

"We had a fun fair, and an horticulture tent full of flowers so it wasn't just about the horses, although they do play a big part in it.

"There was also a birds of prey show, which the audience really loved, and it was something a bit different.

"What is nice about the show is that we get people coming from the village, but we also get people who are on holiday in the area also coming down to have a look."

Mr Jones added: "It also helps that it is in the summer holidays, as we get a lot of families coming visiting.

"We are almost on our 100th year, and it's such a great thing to be apart of."



There were plenty of vintage vehicles on show at the event



Spectators enjoyed the popular annual show



There was plenty of fresh produce on show and many were awarded prizes



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

German players told not to give game away



Bert Trautmann



The football trophy

THE Hodnet players in a crucial cup match against Newport were under strict instructions. They were not to speak at all during the game.

Because if they did, the truth would be revealed – that they were not Hodnet lads at all, but German prisoners of war from the prison camp at nearby Hawkstone, some of whom were talented pre-war professionals.

There was a reason for the subterfuge, in that it was well known that the Newport team had several professional players from the Donnington army camp playing for them. "With this knowledge, the Hodnet manager decided to ask the American officer in charge at the Hawkstone POW camp if Hodnet could play some of the best German players," Gerald Mothershaw, the late Hodnet historian, was to recall.

"This was agreed, on the understanding that the German players were not to speak, as this would give the game away.

"One of the Germans, who worked at Hodnet Hall, was a very solidly-built full-back who played for Berlin. He wore a leather strap headgear. You might say he stood out in a crowd and it was obvious without speaking that the players from Hawkstone, with their footballing skills, were not Hodnet lads.

"Hodnet won this match by the odd goal, but the result was contested by the Newport team manager. A rematch was called for and arranged without the German players. Hodnet were thrashed."

That match was in 1946 or 1947 before the German prisoners were sent home. It was a period which was to see some of the most unusual football matches in Hodnet's history, which were researched by Gerald for one of his series of local history books, which were sold raising thousands of pounds for various charities.

There were a number of games played between Hodnet and the German prisoners on the village recreation ground. A physical relic has survived, in the form of a wooden cup, about 1ft high, fashioned by the German prisoners and given to the defeated Hodnet team.

It has the inscription "240 G.P.W. Camp Hawkstone Park" and is decorated with a football, acorn, and oak leaves. An unanswered question is whether Bert Trautmann, the legendary goalkeeper who was a German prisoner, played in any of the games, although Gerald thought the evidence was against.

The survival of the cup only came to light a few years ago. It appears that after the matches finished, it ended up with Harry France, who was on the committee and may himself have played, and then when he died his nephew Charlie France of Hodnet kept it safe.

Gerald Mothershaw was one of those who saw the games. "The German prisoners played against the Hodnet football team in late 1946 just before they started repatriation in 1947," he was to recall.

"There were a few matches which we lads always enjoyed and we got to know a lot of the German prisoners because in 1946 they made lots of different toys and oil paintings and they were allowed to come around the village to sell them.

"The wooden cup which they made and presented to the Hodnet football team spent a long time in the Hodnet newspaper shop window. When I wrote my book I tried to find who had this cup so that I could put a photograph in the book, but no-one knew where it was.

"I worked with a German for some years. He was at Hawkstone POW camp for a while and he told me that he knew Bert Trautmann, but Bert spent most of his time in a POW camp in Cheshire. When Bert was released he played football for St Helens Town in the second division before being signed by Manchester City in 1949."



The man who tracked her - Inspector Cole, seated left, with his Bridgnorth police force



Francis Groome - the man she ran away with

Scandalous union did not have happy ending

THERE must have been those in Bridgnorth who wondered whether the marriage of the 52-year-old town clerk to a 20-year-old, pipe-smoking, hard-drinking gipsy girl would turn out badly.

They were to be proven right, because the sensation of the wedding in Norway between Hubert Smith and Esmeralda Locke in 1874 was soon to be followed by scandal.

After their return to Bridgnorth they set up home in Lantern Hall, later called The Mundens, sometimes sleeping in a tent on the lawn.

Esmeralda had a fiery temperament. Some called her wild. According to Morley Tonkin, a newspaper boss who investigated the story in the 1960s (and whose researches we are drawing on), in temper she would smash crockery, windows, and furniture. Indeed, even towards the end of her long life she could erupt into colossal rages.

"Bridgnorth traditions speak of Hubert locking up Esmeralda when she was in her tantrums. An attic cubbyhole in St James's Priory was pointed out to me when I owned the house as one of her prisons. I don't think that, even with help, Hubert would ever have got Esmeralda into it," Tonkin was to write.

"At The Mundens there is a cellar room with a jail-like door and she is said to have been put there to 'shout herself out.' This may have been, but Hubert liked a good drop of wine and this may have been where he kept it – safe from Esmeralda who could drink too much."

It was not long before it was all over. They had returned to Bridgnorth at the beginning of August, serious trouble arose at Christmas, and by February she had gone.

Trouble came in the shape of the tall, bearded, Francis Hinde Groome. Born in 1851, he was the son of a rector and archdeacon in Suffolk. He was a brilliant scholar who had absorbed the lore of country ways and gipsy life.

He wrote to Hubert congratulating him on his marriage. Hubert invited him to visit them in Bridgnorth. And so poor Hubert, 52, introduced 23-year-old Francis to his 20-year-old bride. It was a fateful meeting which Esmeralda was to recall years later.

"For God's truth, when I saw that Rai and heard his voice it pierced my very heart and I knew that was my man," she said.

"I loved him and he me, and when a gipsy once koms (loves) like that, tuti jins (thou knowest) she koms for ever. From that

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

day to this, even if he did treat me badly (though I treated him a lot worse) I worshipped him."

Hubert found that Francis had a far better knowledge of Romany than he had. Francis and Esmeralda talked much in that tongue, Hubert being left out.

Their looks betrayed their feelings.

Hubert had words and Francis left The Mundens. But soon after Esmeralda told her husband that she must consult a "gus-sorie gorgio" - a non-gipsy astrologer or wise man, and departed, ostensibly to consult a Mr John Louis Watkin.

She was away for longer than expected. It turned out Mr John Louis Watkin was in fact Francis Hinde Groome, and the pair were staying together in Cardiff as Mr and Mrs Hindes.

When Esmeralda returned to Bridgnorth there were scenes.

"One source of disagreement was that Hubert objected to her going out into Low Town," writes Tonkin.

"He complained that the company there was not suitable for his wife. She was apt to visit The Bandon Arms, The Falcon and other inns and drink too much with fellow gipsies.

"But he also suspected she had an arrangement for collecting letters there. This proved so, and Hubert intercepted a letter sent under cover there."

In trying to cope, he sent her off to her parents so that the strong gipsy code of marital fidelity would be drilled into her. Her father brought her back again, seemingly in a contrite mood, but she went off again, this time to Bristol where she and Francis stayed at the George and Railway Hotel, again as Mr and Mrs Hindes.

Incredibly, Hubert, in his role as town clerk, was able to get one Inspector Cole, the chief of Bridgnorth's police force, to spy on them and track them, and he saw her walking in Bath with Francis.

On March 3, 1875, only nine months after the wedding, Hubert began divorce proceedings.

Esmeralda and Francis went to London and then to the Continent with precious little money. Esmeralda got a job in a cafe, singing and dancing. They spent two months travelling across Germany, France and Hungary.

As for Hubert, the strain had made him ill and he went to Spain to recuperate,



Esmeralda when aged over 70 meeting some Bridgnorth folk

which meant there was a long delay before a letter from Esmeralda asking for forgiveness reached him.

It ended: "Oh, what I would give my dear-est Hubert, if I could place my arms round you again."

There was the briefest of reconciliations before she went back to Francis and the divorce case, a great scandal in Victorian days and which made headlines, began on March 1, 1876, with Hubert claiming damages - a claim he quickly dropped.

A decree nisi was granted, a year and eight months after the marriage. It was made absolute on November 7, 1876, and just a few days later, on November 20, Francis and Esmeralda were married in Edinburgh "by declaration", as permitted by Scottish law.

They were not to live happily ever after. After a while the old wanderlust took hold, and Esmeralda started to go off. She came to Bridgnorth from time to time, which troubled Hubert, who left the town.

In December 1898 Francis finally wrote: "I never wish you anything but good Izzie,

but we must never meet again on this side of the grave. Perhaps on the other side we shall."

He died on January 24, 1902. Hubert married again and lived in his last years in Leamington, becoming Hubert Smith-Stanier. He died in Hampshire on June 22, 1911, and his body was brought back to Bridgnorth to be buried.

Esmeralda's last visit to Shropshire, Tonkin writes, was probably in 1922, and finally she settled her green and yellow caravan at Prestatyn. There were those in Bridgnorth who used to visit her to have their fortunes told.

Late in February 1939 she went to collect her pension and was knocked down by a bus. She fought for her life for weeks, but died in early April. The funeral was at St Thomas's, Rhyl, and she was buried in the central cemetery.

In finishing his telling of the story, Tonkin remarks: "When people tell me that Bridgnorth is a small place and that nothing ever happens there, I think of Esmeralda Locke."

Do you have any old pictures or tales from the past to share with our readers? Email toby.neal@shropshirestar.co.uk

Dragonsflies out and about as summer starts to fade

BARELY have the school holidays started then they're over (depending on your parenthood status, you may or may not agree with me on that one).

As a fair weather hiker, climber and golfer, I must admit to enjoying long, lazy, hot summer days. But as September creeps up on us, the natural world goes from a languid third to a hurtling fifth gear in a matter of weeks.

Although October can be said to neatly encompass most of autumn, September is when we start to see the changes begin.

From cooler temperatures to birds flying south and from winter migrants appearing to leaves falling.

Morning mists hang low in steep sided valleys and cloak the meadows; gossamer webs are laden with ephemeral pearls.

September and October will bring great changes.

Asides from the leaves on the deciduous trees, many plants die back to their storage roots below ground, overwinter as seeds or remain as a shadow of their former self above ground.

Animals fatten up for their winter hibernation, insect numbers decline massively as adults of many species die to leave the caterpillars or pupae to survive the winter.

But for now we can still revel in our summer migrant birds, our lush (although somewhat tired) greenery and the butterflies in our gardens.

And on a similar note, dragonflies are perhaps at their best right now. On sunny days on riverbanks and in areas of wetland

ON THE WILDSIDE

With Ben Waddams



they hunt for insects moving with great agility and speed.

The larger species reach a maximum of around 25-30 mph with an average cruising speed of about 10 mph.

Although they are impressive flyers, dragonflies are no match for the aeronautical brilliance of the Hobby and it's well worth a trip up the fens and mosses of the north of the county to try and see these two battling it out.

As far as getting a better look at dragonflies goes, the red common sympetrum can be quite tolerant of close inspection so long as you approach quietly.

But undoubtedly the most impressive species has to be the Hawkers.

These, the largest of the UK dragonflies, reach a length of about 85mm and a wingspan of about 120mm.

According to the wonderful chaps (and chapesses) at the British Dragonfly Society, based here in Shropshire, the biggest wingspan of a living dragonfly is the Central American Megalopterus Coerulatus with a wingspan about 19cm.

However if you ever saw a Megalopterus, you may well be a little disappointed as it is technically a long, slender and delicate damselfly.

The bulkiest true dragonfly may be Petalura Ingentissima from Australia with the



Dragonflies are perhaps at their best right now, on riverbanks and in wetland areas

females exhibiting a wingspan of about 16cm. To see truly massive dragonflies we'd have to travel back to prehistoric times where dragonflies ruled the skies whilst dinosaurs ruled the land. They became the largest flying insects ever with one member of the group, the Permian Meganeuropter Permiana, having a recon-

structed wingspan of about 70-75cm. But for now we'll have to make do with the Hawkers, surely the most impressive of our flying insects and one that happily enjoys the fair weather with our species. Ben will be exhibiting at September's Midland Game Fair, Weston Park on September 19 and 20.

Children taken to hospital after drinking binges

SIX children a week, some as young as 11, are being admitted to Shropshire's two hospitals for alcohol and drug abuse.

It has been revealed 329 people under the age of 18 were treated at Telford's Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in just 12 months in drug or alcohol related incidents.

And 85 of these youngsters were kept in hospital for more than 24 hours, it has been revealed.

Police and health officials have spoken of the dangers and said the majority of cases were due to alcohol, with the binge drink and drug culture playing a role.

The figures relate to the time period between April 1 last year and March 31 this year.

Detective Chief Inspector Tom Harding, who works for Telford Police, said drinking among children as young as 11 was an area for great concern.

He said: "There will always be underage drinking and when we come across this we make sure we reunite them with the parents or make sure they get to hospital."

"Unfortunately we do deal with this and obviously it is a concern."

"Children don't know how to drink sensibly," Mr Harding added.

Helena Conibear, of the Alcohol Education Trust, which supports schools and clubs across Shropshire with free resources on alcohol, said the figures were "tragic" for the county.

She said: "We don't know the breakdown of the figures, as regards the split between alcohol and drugs, or if some children have presented more than once during the year, which would help us understand the extent of the problem and if it is growing."

"It is tragic to see that an average of six children a week are being treated for drug and alcohol related admissions across Shropshire."

She said the figures should help the Shropshire Community Alcohol Partnership tackle underage drinking and provide training for schools, youth club leaders and diversionary activities for youngsters.

She added: "We hope these figures will help provide the impetus for it to renew its work across the county to reduce underage drinking and associated hospital admissions."

Bosses at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust refused to comment on the issue.

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Source: ABC



Pointless Celebrities

7pm

New series. Alexander Armstrong presents the general knowledge quiz as famous faces from BBC radio programme Test Match Special take part. The famous faces try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public.



Edwardian Farm

7.40pm

Constant rain threatens the harvesting of the oat crop so Peter Ginn tries to fashion a weather vane in the hope of predicting future conditions, before the team deploys the latest in farming technology. The town enjoys a fete where new innovations of the era such as the electric lightbulb are showcased.



Keep It in the Family

7pm

Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families from Sunderland and Bradford go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Six stars from Coronation Street face the drop as the teams decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family. And of course, the Nanas are back.



Great Canal Journeys

7pm

Veteran actors Timothy West and Prunella Scales head to Llangollen, where they spent their honeymoon. Reminiscing over how their relationship has survived and thrived over the past 50 years, the pair take in the picturesque sights of the Vale of Llangollen and the Montgomery Canal.



Football League Tonight

9pm

Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two, including Derby County v Leeds United. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. James Martin presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
11.30	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Chelsea v Crystal Palace and Swansea City v Manchester United in the Premier League.
12.00	BBC News; Weather.
12.10	Live Athletics: World Championships. Further coverage of day eight at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, where medals are decided in seven events, including the men's 5,000m and men's and women's 4x100m relays.
2.30	Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Hull Kingston Rovers v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 3.15pm). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the final from Wembley Stadium. Rovers are making their first appearance in this showpiece match since 1986, and will fancy their chances of lifting the trophy having produced an upset in the semi-finals to overcome Warrington Wolves 26-18. However, the Rhinos will go into this match as strong favourites, having reached the final in five of the last six seasons, including last term when they defeated Castleford Tigers 23-10.
5.25	FILM: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005). The inventor and his canine sidekick go on the hunt for a destructive giant rabbit. Animated adventure, featuring the voices of Peter Sallis, Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter.
6.45	BBC News.
6.55	Midlands Today; Weather.
7.00	Pointless Celebrities. New series. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz with famous faces from BBC radio programme Test Match Special, including Phil Tufnell.
7.50	The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together and answer questions to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. Includes the weekend draw.
8.45	Casualty. Part one of two. More than one member of the hospital staff fights for their life after Zoe and Max's wedding reception, while gang violence takes a deadly turn in the department.
9.35	Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (R)
10.05	BBC News; Weather.
10.25	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Newcastle United v Arsenal at St James' Park and Chelsea v Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update.
11.55	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.00	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.00	FILM: The Westerner (1940). Western, starring Gary Cooper.
7.35	FILM: Big Jim McLain (1952). Spy drama, starring John Wayne.
9.00	More Creatures Great and Small. (R)
9.30	More Creatures Great and Small. (R)
10.00	The Women's Football Show. (R)
10.30	Live Athletics: World Championships. Coverage of day eight at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing.
12.10	Great British Menu. The first of the Wales heats. (R)
12.40	Great British Menu. The Welsh chefs prepare their fish course. (R)
1.10	Great British Menu. Stephen Gomes, Adam Bannister and Phil Carmichael tackle the main-course round. (R)
1.40	Musicals: Talking Pictures. Exploring the story of the Hollywood musical.
2.25	FILM: That's Entertainment! (1974). Compilation of highlights from MGM musicals, starring Frank Sinatra.
4.30	Final Score. Round-up of football results.
5.30	Gardeners' World. Monty Don takes stock of various initiatives at Longmeadow. (R)
6.00	Athletics: World Championships Highlights. Gabby Logan presents action from day eight at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, including the men's 5,000m and men's and women's 4x100m relays.
7.00	Proms Extra 2015. Katie Derham looks at the musical highs from the past week in the Royal Albert Hall, and focuses on Bach, Nielsen and Big Band Swing.
7.40	Edwardian Farm. The team tries to harvest the oat crop but work is disrupted by rain. When they finally manage to bring in the crop, the town celebrates with a fete. Last in the series. (R)
8.40	Dad's Army. Wilson is put in charge of the platoon when HQ discover that Mainwaring is not a commissioned officer and must join the ranks as a private. (R)
9.10	Sue Perkins' Big Night Out. Sue hosts a special programme rounding up highlights from this year's Edinburgh festivals, with guests Phill Jupitus, Nina Conti, Katherine Ryan, Adam Hills and rock supergroup FFS.
10.10	Comedy Connections. The story behind The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin, charting the adaptation of David Nobbs's darkly comic books into an unexpected sitcom success. (R)
10.40	The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin. The first episode of the classic 1970s comedy, starring Leonard Rossiter as a middle-aged executive stuck in a rut and eager to learn the real meaning of life. Repeated to mark the recent death of writer David Nobbs. (R)
11.10	Jack Dee - So What? A 2013 performance at London's Hammersmith Apollo by the deadpan comedian in which he tackles life's petty annoyances and everyday frustrations. (R)
12.15	Live Athletics: World Championships. The women's marathon from Beijing.
3.15	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan 6.35 Dino Dan 6.45 Dino Dan 7.00 Animals 7.05 Canimals 7.15 Sooty 7.30 Super 4 7.45 Fish Hooks 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With guests Rufus Hound, Nigel Havers, Melvin Odoom and Nerina Pallot.
9.25	Murder, She Wrote. An old friend of Jessica's fears for her sanity. (R)
10.20	The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
11.20	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
12.25	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.35	The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
1.35	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
2.35	You've Been Framed! Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (R)
3.05	The Chase. Series three of the quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
4.05	FILM: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971). A confectionery king gives five children a tour of his magical factory - where a terrible fate awaits those who misbehave. Musical fantasy, starring Gene Wilder and Jack Albertson.
6.00	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.15	ITV News and Weather.
6.30	You've Been Framed! (R)
7.00	Keep It in the Family. Six Coronation Street stars face the drop and bell ringing act from Canada performs as families from Sunderland and Bradford compete. Fun game show, hosted by Bradley Walsh.
8.00	The X Factor. New series. The auditions begin, as hopefuls perform for Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora in the hope of securing a place at Boot Camp. Continues on ITV1 tomorrow at 8pm.
9.30	Through the Keyhole. New series. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel - Gino D'Acampo, Sue Cleaver and Johnny Vegas - to guess the identities of the famous owners.
10.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.45	FILM: The Bourne Ultimatum (2007). The amnesiac assassin regains his memory, just as a CIA director sets in motion a plan to kill him. Spy thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn.
12.45	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Show Me the Telly. Quiz show, hosted by Richard Bacon. Michelle Collins, Denise Van Outen and team captain Chris Tarrant pit their wits against members of the public. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

Channel 4	
6.10	How I Met Your Mother. (R)
6.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
7.00	Long Course Weekend. Action from the ultra-triathlon staged in Pembrokeshire.
8.00	The Morning Line. Previewing the meetings at Goodwood, Newmarket and Beverley.
9.00	Frasier. A British theme pub becomes Frasier's favourite haunt. (R)
9.30	Frasier. Niles and Frasier employ a private detective. (R)
10.00	The Big Bang Theory. The gang reflects on how Sheldon has changed their lives. (R)
10.30	The Big Bang Theory. Penny makes an important decision. (R)
11.00	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon is forced to take a holiday. (R)
11.30	The Simpsons. Santa's Little Helper becomes the Duff Beer mascot. (R)
12.00	The Simpsons. Homer is banned from driving. (R)
12.30	The Simpsons. Bart gets into trouble for vandalism. (R)
1.00	Rude(ish) Tube. Amusing internet videos, including an incredibly large egg.
1.30	Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Goodwood, Beverley and Newmarket.
4.10	Come Dine with Me. The competition heads to Milton Keynes. (R)
4.40	Come Dine with Me. PA Louise hosts the second night in Milton Keynes. (R)
5.10	Come Dine with Me. The third dinner party in Milton Keynes. (R)
5.40	Come Dine with Me. Helen hosts the fourth night of the competition in Milton Keynes. (R)
6.10	Come Dine with Me. It is the final evening in Milton Keynes and the turn of competitive salesman Simon to host. He plans for an evening of fine dining, but had not expected sabotage from his guests. (R)
6.35	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Great Canal Journeys. Veteran actors Timothy West and Prunella Scales head to Llangollen, Denbighshire, where they spent their honeymoon 50 years ago.
8.00	Walking Through History. Tony Robinson goes on a four-day trek through the Kintail region of the Highlands, examining the story of the early 1700s Jacobite uprisings along the way. (R)
9.00	FILM: Side Effects (2013). Premiere. A psychiatrist finds his life unravelling after a drug he prescribes to a patient causes disturbing personality changes. Thriller, starring Jude Law and Rooney Mara.
11.10	FILM: Unknown (2011). A doctor wakes up from a coma to find another man is claiming to be him, and any evidence of his real identity has disappeared. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson and Diane Kruger.
1.20	FILM: Stranger by the Lake (2013). Premiere. Thriller, starring Pierre Deladonchamps.
3.10	Hollyoaks. (R)
5.25	1001 Things You Should Know. (R)
5.50	How I Met Your Mother. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas 6.15 Angelina Ballerina 6.30 Pip Ahoy! 6.45 The Mr Men Show 6.55 Chloe's Closet 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too 7.15 Make Way for Noddy 7.25 Paw Patrol 7.45 Little Princess 8.00 Wanda and the Alien 8.15 Zack and Quack 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.45 Jelly Jamm 9.05 LazyTown 9.30 Dora and Friends
10.00	SpongeBob SquarePants. Double bill. Squidward, SpongeBob and Patrick are trapped together.
10.35	Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
10.50	Cowboy Builders. Helping the family of a seriously ill girl in Milton Keynes. (R)
11.50	FILM: When Hell Breaks Loose (1958). Second World War drama, starring Charles Bronson.
1.25	FILM: Patton (1970). Second World War biopic, starring George C Scott.
4.45	FILM: Operation Daybreak (1975). Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Timothy Bottoms and Martin Shaw.
7.00	5 News Weekend.
7.05	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. The documentary focuses on two disputes that developed from complaints about noise-making to become far more serious quarrels, one of which took a tragic, life-changing turn. (R)
8.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred attempt to collect unpaid rent, but the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R)
9.00	Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Derby County v Leeds United.
10.30	Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.
11.30	Tattoo Disasters UK. People who regret their tattoos share the stories behind them, including a woman who was desperate to erase a former partner's name from her wrist. (R)
12.00	SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another. (R)
4.00	Transporter: The Series. Frank is tasked to deliver a million euros to the south of France.
4.50	Make It Big. The day of the event arrives. (R)
5.15	Make It Big. The raffle money goes missing. (R)
5.45	Angels of Jarm. The children make cards. (R)
5.50	Angels of Jarm. Faith tries to pull a big box. (R)



Match of the Day 2

10.30pm

The latest Premier League action, featuring Southampton v Norwich City and Swansea City v Manchester United. The Saints were expected to defeat one of the favourites for relegation as they look to build on last season's results, while the Swans were looking to continue their fine run against United.



Odyssey

10pm

A shaman forces Odelle to confront the ghosts of her recent past, while an unemployed Peter reaches his lowest ebb as he is implicated in the murder of Gentry's assassin. Elsewhere, a remorseful Ruby manages to avoid imprisonment and leaves for a romantic break with Harrison.



The Chase

5.30pm

Four contestants pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They work as a team and play strategically to answer questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.



The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story - Secret History

7pm

With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drones mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signals system.



Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones

8.05pm

After officers foil a robbery at a jewellers, the ensuing car chase ends with a helicopter following the suspects through pitch black countryside. Plus, everything stops on a drugs raid when a courier turns up with a mystery package.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Newcastle United v Arsenal at St James' Park and Chelsea v Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge. (R)
- 9.00 BBC News.**
- 10.00 Sunday Morning Live.** Sian Williams presents a topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panellists including Scissor Sisters singer Ana Matronic.
- 11.00 Wanted Down Under Revisited.** Nicki Chapman catches up with the Williams family from Scunthorpe, who in 2008 planned a move to Auckland in New Zealand, despite teenager Stephanie hating her trial week there. (R)
- 12.00 Bargain Hunt.** Four teams of reds and blues attend a fair in Swindorby, Lincolnshire. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Nottinghamshire, south London and Staffordshire. (R)
- 2.15 Flog It!** Paul Martin and the team value antiques at Lissanore Castle. (R)
- 2.55 Escape to the Country.** A couple seek a new home in the Worcestershire countryside. (R)
- 3.55 The Great British Bake Off.** The nine remaining competitors face dessert week. (R)
- 4.55 Songs of Praise - Gospel Choir of the Year.** Six amateur choirs compete in the annual gospel-singing contest.
- 5.35 BBC News.**
- 5.50 Midlands Today: Weather.**
- 6.00 Countryfile.** A look at unusual harvests, including a farm that uses old-fashioned methods and a crop of opium poppies. Plus, the 12 finalists for this year's photographic competition are chosen. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 7.00 Big Blue Live.** Steve Backshall tries to spot blue whales from the sky, while Liz Bonnin joins scientists tagging the animals. Plus, a baby sea otter with a vital role to play. Last in the series.
- 8.00 Casualty.** Part two of two. The team rallies around to save Charlie following his heart attack, but with gang violence threatening to engulf the hospital, tensions are running high.
- 9.00 Partners in Crime.** Part three of three. Tuppence comes to the rescue when Tommy is captured by the mysterious "N", and the race is on to find the key that operates the stolen bomb. Last in the series.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today: Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action.
- 11.30 FILM: In the Valley of Elah (2007).** The father of a missing soldier suspects the army is covering up the reasons behind his son's disappearance. Drama, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon.
- 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.25 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** The horticulturist prepares for winter. (R)
- 6.30 Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Powis Castle. (R)
- 7.30 Gardeners' World.** (R)
- 8.00 The Beechgrove Garden.**
- 8.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
- 10.00 Great British Menu.** (R)
- 10.30 Great British Menu.** (R)
- 11.00 Live Athletics: World Championships.** Coverage of day nine at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing.
- 2.30 FILM: That's Entertainment Part Two (1976).** Compilation of MGM highlights, starring Judy Garland.
- 4.30 Nature's Wildest Events.** A town brought to a standstill by a swarm of insects. (R)
- 5.00 Jungle Atlantis.** Part one of two. The rise and fall of the medieval city of Angkor in Cambodia. (R)
- 6.00 World's Busiest Railway 2015.** Dan Snow, Anita Rani, Robert Llewellyn and John Sergeant go behind the scenes at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to learn what it takes to run the station. (R)
- 7.00 Athletics: World Championships Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents action from the ninth and final day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, as medals were handed out in the final seven disciplines.
- 8.00 Dragons' Den.** A former banker seeks funding to renovate a London underground station, a man cycles into the studio to promote his business, and a farmer has plans to launch a range of drinks.
- 9.00 Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week.** New series. Andrew Flintoff presents a show in which contestants go through the training regimes of elite military forces from around the world, beginning with America's Navy Seals.
- 10.00 Odyssey.** A shaman forces Odelle to confront the ghosts of her recent past, Peter reaches his lowest ebb, and Ruby and Harrison leave for a romantic getaway.
- 10.40 Family Guy.** Meg is thrilled to be recruited as a model - but not everything is as it seems with the job. Meanwhile, Brian accompanies Stewie on a road trip adventure.
- 11.05 Family Guy.** Peter goes to Chicago on a business trip and returns an intelligent, classy person.
- 11.25 Family Guy.** Jerome tries to prevent his daughter Pam from dating Chris, but when the couple run away together he must unite with Peter to track them down.
- 11.45 FILM: Black Sheep (2006).** A farmer performs genetic experiments on his flock of sheep, giving the animals an insatiable appetite for human flesh. Comedy horror, starring Nathan Meister and Peter Feeney.
- 1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
- 2.05 Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
- 3.05 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!** **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Canimals **7.05** Canimals **7.15** Sooty **7.30** Super 4 **7.45** Fish Hooks **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion
- 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Weekend.** With Brian McFadden and Tom Craine.
- 9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** A weekend break is marred by murder. (R)
- 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.25 ITV News and Weather: Weather.**
- 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.35 The X Factor.** The auditions for a new music star begin. (R)
- 3.05 FILM: Casino Royale (1967).** Spoof James Bond adventure, starring David Niven.
- 5.30 The Chase.** Series three of the quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 6.30 ITV News Central: Weather.**
- 6.45 ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.00 Animal Mums.** How animals raise their young, revealing how elephants and vervet monkeys work together to look after the youngsters in a group and following a lioness with eight boisterous cubs.
- 8.00 The X Factor.** Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present more coverage of the audition process, as singers perform in front of the judging panel and an arena audience to win a place in boot camp.
- 9.00 The Trials of Jimmy Rose.** New series. Drama, starring Ray Winstone as a former armed robber trying to get his life in order and reconnect with his family after being released from prison. With Amanda Redman.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather: Weather.**
- 10.20 56 Up.** Documentary exploring the lives of people first filmed in 1964, when they were seven years old, revealing how their views have changed with the passage of time. Last in the series. (R)
- 11.25 Premiership Rugby 7s Series.** Action from finals night at The Stoop, where the eight qualifiers from the group stage competed in two pools of four, with the two pool-topping teams competing in the final.
- 12.20 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Motorsport UK.** Highlights from Snetterton, featuring the Ginetta GT4 Supercup and the MSA Formula Championship. Commentary by Richard John Neil.
- 3.50 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** Action from Cadwell Park, where the eighth meeting of the season was scheduled to take place, featuring the 15th and 16th races of the campaign.
- 4.40 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** The friends undergo health checks. (R)
- 6.40 The Grid.** Including a look at the Grand Prix circuit in Mexico City.
- 7.10 British GT.** Action from the seventh round of the season at Snetterton.
- 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray has a brush with death. (R)
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Pilot episode of the comedy series, starring Ray Romano. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** The shrink's former agent returns. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** Niles tries to save his marriage. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With Larry Lamb, Example, MyAnna Buring and All Time Low.
- 12.30 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015.** Sheds from the final categories are visited before the winner is announced. Last in the series. (R)
- 1.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Amy suggests moving in with Sheldon. (R)
- 2.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Penny celebrate Valentine's Day. (R)
- 2.30 The Simpsons.** A Hollywood star visits Springfield. (R)
- 3.00 The Simpsons.** Krusty agrees to run for Congress. (R)
- 3.25 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** A property that has been on the market for five years.
- 4.30 Location, Location, Location.** House-hunting in London. (R)
- 5.35 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** East Devon and Andalucia, Spain.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story - Secret History.** Using cutting-edge chemistry, the programme finds out what has kept the wall standing for so long - a simple cooking ingredient found in kitchens across the world. (R)
- 8.00 Time Crashers.** The celebrities get a taste of life in 1468, where they are formed into two teams and sent to work as squires for two knights preparing to face each other in a jousting tournament.
- 9.00 FILM: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011).** Seven English pensioners decide to make a fresh start by moving to India to live in a dilapidated hotel. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Dev Patel.
- 11.25 FILM: One Day (2011).** The 20-year friendship between two university graduates is explored through the anniversaries of their first meeting. Romantic drama, starring Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess.
- 1.25 FILM: Tom at the Farm (2013).** Premiere. Drama, directed by and starring Xavier Dolan.
- 3.10 Come Dine with Me.** Landscape gardener Greg Basire hosts the first dinner party in west London. (R)
- 3.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 4.05 Come Dine with Me.** Sabrina Ghayour plans an ambitious Persian menu. (R)
- 4.35 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 5.05 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 5.30 1001 Things You Should Know.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Pip Ahoy! **6.30** The Mr Men Show **6.40** Chloe's Closet **6.55** Make Way for Noddy **7.05** Paw Patrol **7.20** Little Princess **7.35** Wanda and the Alien **7.45** Zack and Quack **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.15** Jelly Jamm **8.35** LazyTown **9.05** Dora and Friends
- 9.30 SpongeBob SquarePants.** Neptune celebrates his birthday.
- 10.05 Football League Tonight.** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)
- 11.35 Police Interceptors.** Duggie and Mark chase a serial offender on foot. (R)
- 12.30 Police Interceptors.** Angus and Sean smash down a door to save a man's life. (R)
- 1.25 FILM: CutThroat Island (1995).** Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis.
- 3.45 FILM: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009).** Comedy, starring Kevin James.
- 5.30 FILM: Superman (1978).** Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve.
- 8.05 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones.** A helicopter joins the pursuit of suspected jewel thieves, while a tracker on a stolen car leads to an Aladdin's cave of a warehouse. Vinnie Jones presents. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.
- 10.00 20 Moments that Rocked the 80s.** Cherie Lunghi presents a countdown of memorable moments, including royal weddings, political scandals, sporting triumphs and the rise to fame of iconic entertainers.
- 11.30 FILM: Shoot 'Em Up (2007).** A mysterious gun-toting stranger delivers a baby, which he then has to protect from a horde of assassins. Action adventure, starring Clive Owen, Paul Giamatti and Monica Bellucci.
- 1.00 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Inside Scientology - and Escaping the Witnesses.** Documentary telling the stories of people whose lives were turned upside-down by their beliefs and who ended up convinced that they were trapped in cults. (R)
- 4.00 House Doctor.** A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R)
- 4.25 Make It Big.** Reality show following 12 young entrepreneurs. (R)
- 4.50 Make It Big.** Things are not going to plan for Graham. (R)
- 5.15 Make It Big.** The youngsters must organise a charity auction, to be held in six weeks' time, but the team seems more intent on having fun than working. (R)
- 5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)
- 5.50 Angels of Jarm.** David loses confidence. (R)



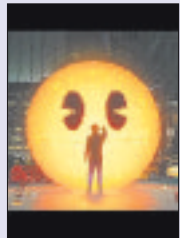
Cinema listings

MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. (12A)



Poor relation – 5/10
Victoria Vinciguerra is the beautiful mastermind of a criminal organisation which hopes to destabilise global peace using a warhead armed by nuclear scientist Udo Teller. CIA handler Sanders instructs his debonair agent Napoleon Solo to join forces with KGB counterpart Illya Kuryakin to thwart Victoria's nefarious plan. Poor character development thwarts a great look.

PIXELS (12A)



Pixel-hated – 4/10
More than 30 years ago Sam Brenner and Will Cooper attended the arcade game world championships. Sam now installs software for a living, while Will has become the unpopular President of the United States. Alien invaders attack in the form of favourite videogame characters to destroy mankind. Can our heroes destroy Centipede and Pacman?

TRAINWRECK (15)



On track – 8/10
Amy Townsend enjoys a free sex life in stark contrast to her sister Kim who has settled down with her knitwear-clad husband Tom. Amy works at lifestyle magazine S'Nuff and is assigned to pen a profile on sports doctor Aaron Connors. The interview sparks an unlikely romance with the kind-hearted medic that threatens to unravel the fabric of her bed-hopping existence.

FANTASTIC FOUR (12A)



Comic heroes – 6/10
Miles Teller, who was mesmerising in Whiplash, squanders his talent as Reed Richards who leads a team exploring inter-dimensional travel. Disaster strikes during the first teleportation but the team survive and are invested with super-human abilities. One of the team, Victor, uses his new powers for evil though and must be stopped.

Hapless holidaymakers

Review by Damon Smith

IN the 1980s, Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo played hapless parents Clark and Ellen Griswold in three raucous comedies under the National Lampoon banner, which reflected the exquisite agony of spending quality time with loved ones during the holidays.

Vacation, European Vacation and Christmas Vacation mined a rich vein of universal humour grounded in sibling rivalry and miscommunication between the generations.

Writer-directors John Francis Daley and Jonathan M Goldstein's contemporary update borrows the title of the first film and recycles the central plot but spatters the heartfelt sentiment with a thick layer of filth. Elegance and sophistication are strangers to a lumbering script peppered with paedophilia and projectile vomiting, that isn't averse to an in-joke about the film's hand-me-down origins.

"I've never heard of the original Vacation," remarks a teenager.

"Doesn't matter. The new Vacation will stand on its own," responds his father.

It doesn't – the new film is on its knees, wretching and wretched, from the crass opening set piece.

As a boy, Rusty Griswold (Ed Helms) undertook an epic cross-country trip to the Walley World theme park with his family. More than 30 years later, Rusty is a commercial pilot for Econo Air with a beautiful wife Debbie (Christina Applegate) and two sons: sensitive teenager James (Skyler



Christina Applegate, Ed Helms, Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo appearing in Vacation

Gisondo), who plays a guitar, and foul-mouthed bully Kevin (Steele Stebbins), who torments his older brother.

For years, Rusty has taken his clan to a log cabin in Michigan for their summer holiday, but when he overhears his wife bemoaning the predictability of the excursion, he surprises the Griswolds with an impromptu road trip to Walley World. The family begrudgingly bundles into a hulking

hybrid hire car and hits the road.

En route, the Griswolds insult a rapist trucker (Norman Reedus), make a pit-stop at the home of Rusty's sister Audrey (Leslie Mann) and her weatherman husband (Chris Hemsworth), and seek relaxation at a natural spring.

"This water was heated by Mother Nature's bowels," purrs Rusty, who fails to notice the steaming oasis is a raw sewage

outlet. The pungent brown goo, which the Griswolds smear on their faces, believing it to be mineral-enriched mud, is a fitting summation of this joyless and charmless comedy of errors.

Characters have no depth and none of the central clan is particularly likeable, even weakling James, who spends most of the film flirting awkwardly with a girl (Catherine Missal) on a similar road trip.

Book reviews

THE SUNSHINE CRUISE COMPANY

By John Niven
Published by William Heinemann

What do you do when you're a 60-year-old middle-class housewife and your comfortable suburban lifestyle is destroyed by your husband's eye-watering death in a secret sex dungeon? If you're Susan Frobisher, you recruit your down-at-heel best friend; a wheelchair-bound, obese, octogenarian nymphomaniac from a care home and a straight-laced amateur dramatics fan to rob the local bank. John Niven's sharp satire on modern British life follows the quartet as they scarper to



the south of France with millions in loot, trying to keep ahead of blundering British detectives and the Russian Mafia. It is profane, raucous and at times makes you wince.

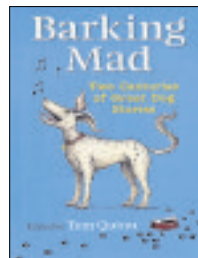
By David Wilcock

BARKING MAD

By Tom Quinn
Published by Quiller
Dog owners often have stories about their pets' intelligence or remarkable abilities, but this is a whole book full of great dog stories stretching back over two centuries.

Among the tales are the dog who used to ride everywhere on the train system – this has echoes of a Shropshire dog called Sinbad who used to go everywhere by bus – the mutt that would take money to the local bakery every day to buy its own cakes, and various tales of doggy heroism.

The stories in this book from Shropshire pub-



lisher Quiller are taken from across the world and a lot of them are very old, which I think is a result of Quinn's desire to uncover tales from long-forgotten publications.

Florence Mona Procter

THE INVISIBLE GUARDIAN

By Dolores Redondo
Published by Harper-Fiction

This is a scorcher of a thriller, the first of a trilogy, set in a remote Basque Country valley. When the body of a teenage girl is discovered, closely linked to an earlier murder, frightened local folk begin to talk of a creature in Basque mythology, the Basajuan.

Inspector Amaia Salazar heads back to Elizondo, her childhood home, to investigate the killings. She had hoped never to have to return to the place which fills her nightmares but she has to overcome her own fears in order to confront



the reality of a serial killer who is running loose in a region steeped in myth, legend, and the history of the Spanish Inquisition.

Amaia tries to hunt down the killer before there are more deaths. By Sally Bunn

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FACE PAINTING

COMPETITIONS

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The Show Sunday lunch will be held in the show marquee on Sunday 30th August, supporting the school PTA, tickets available from Gaynor James on 01686 641893, £20 for adults and £10 for children. Magician entertainment after the meal.

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Alex Lewis and Elizabeth Currie with their Tolkien biography

Tolkien subject of new book

TWO Shropshire authors have released a new biography of JRR Tolkien, which speculates about his involvement with the Secret Service and its influence on his books.

Alex Lewis and Elizabeth Currie from Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, delved into the subjects of espionage and the intelligence services in writing JRR Tolkien: Codemaker, Spy-master, Hero.

The pair were inspired by the Centenary Conference in 1992 at Keble College Oxford, when many papers were presented over a week

on all aspects of Tolkien's life. Mr Lewis said: "They emphasised what had been felt by us for a long while by then - things did not seem to fit. The ideas we were dealing with were quite simply revolutionary. The turning point came in the early 21st century when books were published about the secret services which allowed us to fit some of the missing pieces into the puzzle.

"Exceptional works of creativity come, in our experience, from exceptional people. Tolkien is painted in all previous biographies as an unex-

ceptional and very ordinary person who created exceptional works. No-one would attempt to claim he was one of the most important academics in the world in the 20th century. But to say he was the author of the century is a strong claim. We believe an author's life cannot be separated from his writings. This is the launch point for this biography."

Mr Lewis said the book looks at where Tolkien got his inspiration from and why he wrote what he wrote. In doing so it looks at the author's war record.

Lego city brings to life famous sights

SPECIAL REPORT

By Dominic Robertson

BUCKINGHAM Palace and the London Olympic Park are just some of the world famous buildings which will be visiting the region - all carefully recreated in Lego.

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery will be hosting the "Brick City" exhibition, from September 14 to October 11.

The models, which include St Pancras Station and scenes from across the world, are the creation of Lego enthusiast and artist, Warren Elsmore.

Nearly everyone has had a go at creating with Lego some time in their life but it is fair to say that Mr Elsmore's models do not resemble the wacky and wonderful creations you might have constructed as a child.

He is a master of his medium, and his fabulously detailed models can contain thousands of pieces - or just a handful. Either way, using just Lego bricks, he manages to create models almost indistinguishable from the real thing - although they are considerably smaller.

On display until October 11, the list of models includes Buckingham Palace, the London Olympic Park, as well as landmarks from Paris, Berlin, USA, Brazil and many more.

Visitors to the exhibition, which is suitable for all ages, will also have the opportunity to go up to the museum's balcony and help build a new model from Lego pieces.

Tina Woodward, Shropshire Council's deputy cabinet member responsible for museums, said: "Everyone at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery is delighted that we will be hosting Warren Elsmore's phenomenal Brick City. To many, Lego is simply regarded as a 'child's toy'."

"But to enthusiasts like Warren, Lego has provided a challenging and enjoyable modelling medium."

"The exhibition has already caused a big buzz on our social media accounts with many of our visitors telling us how excited they are and can't wait to visit 'Brick City'."

The museum's activities and learning team has also devised a special programme of educational activities for schools and youth groups visiting the exhibition.



St Pancras Station is another famous landmark which features in the touring exhibition by Warren Elsmore



London Olympic Park recreated in Lego for the Brick City exhibition which is coming to Shrewsbury Museum

Theatre ready to host live screening of 'wild' comedy

A CLASSIC play about comedy and cash will be screened at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre next week.

The Beaux Strategem, billed as 'a wild comedy', will be screened live from the National Theatre.

The play has been performed at the National Theatre since May and closes in September.

Simon Godwin (Man and Superman) directs the George Farquhar play.

It tells the story of 'the beaux' Mr Aimwell and Mr Archer.

They are two 'charming, dissolute young men' who have blown their fortunes in giddy London.

Shamed and debt-ridden, they flee to provincial Lichfield.

Their 'stratagem' - is to marry for money.

Lodged at the local inn posing as master and servant they encounter a variety of human obstacles.

These include a crooked landlord, a fearsome high-



The Beaux Strategem company in action

wayman, a fervent French Count, a maid on the make, a drunken husband, a furious butler, a natural healer and a strange, turbulent priest.

But their greatest obstacle is love.

When the beaux meet their match in Dorinda and Mrs Sullen they are most at risk.

In love they might be discovered.....

Gatehouse artistic programme manager Derrick Gask said: "We introduced film screenings last autumn after installing state of the art digital cinema projector equipment."

"The response from audiences has been overwhelmingly positive."

"These screenings are a fantastic innovation for making some of the world's best theatre accessible for all."

"Plus our audience also get the added benefit of watching the productions amongst the ambience and comfort of the theatre."

The Beaux Strategem will be screened on Thursday next week at 6.45pm.

Tickets are £12.50/£10 concessions and can be booked from the box office on 01785 619080 or visit www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

The screening carries a 12A certificate.

VALLEY OF THE KINGS & BELFAST TITANIC EXPERIENCE

We visit the marvellous Titanic Museum - a state of the art visitor experience over nine floors charting the ship's history from construction to its tragic end in the North Atlantic in 1912. This tour also takes you further back in time to explore some important moments in Ireland's history at sites such as Newgrange and the site of Battle of the Boyne.

Ballymascannon House Hotel, Dundalk ****

Set in 130 acres of beautiful parkland, the impressive Victorian House forms the heart of this Hotel. Family run with a pride and dedication, there is a genuine interest in ensuring every guest is made to feel at home in an informal and luxurious setting giving them a taste of an era gone by.

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- ✓ Portage

Your Tour Cost Includes

- All Travel by Executive Coach
- Return Ferries
- 4 Nights Dinner, Bed and Breakfast
- Excursions as Detailed
- Full Day Excursion to Belfast to visit the Titanic Museum including free time in the compact city centre.
- Full Day Excursion: Our first stop is the Battle of Boyne Visitor Centre telling the story of the famous battle between King William III and his father-in-law King James II. We visit the town of Drogheda for a lunch stop and free time. This afternoon our final visit is to Brú na Bóinne a complex of Neolithic mounds, chamber tombs, standing stones, henges and other prehistoric enclosures, dating as early as 35th century BC.
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Cheese company cheers award



Shropshire cheesemaker Sarah Appleby

A SHROPSHIRE-based cheese company is celebrating after winning a top food award.

Appleby's Cheese, near Whitchurch, has been given a Great Taste award for its Cheshire cheese which will now be able to carry the gold and black Great Taste logo.

A total of 10,000 foods and drinks were entered into the awards scheme which is blind-tasted by more than 400 chefs, critics and producers.

Sarah Appleby, whose family own the cheese company, said: "We have been very excited to announce that we have won our fifth consecutive gold star for our cheese."

"This time it has been the turn of our artisan Cheshire cheese, and in previous years our smoked and double Gloucester have won coveted Great Taste stars.

"It really is such an achievement for our family and all the team at Appleby's – even though we have been producing cheese at for more than 60 years we are thrilled to receive an award from such a highly-regarded judging panel.

"We will definitely be celebrating with a glass of cider and a slice of Cheshire cheese."

The company, which makes cheese at Hawkstone Abbey Farm was awarded

the one-star rating for its cheese. Of the 10,000 entries, 130 were awarded a three-star, 597 received a two-star and 2,382 were awarded a one-star accolade.

The top-rated foods and drinks will then be re-judged to decide the 2015 Top 50 Foods which will then go on to the next round in a bid to become the Great Taste Supreme Champion 2015.

The annual Great Taste Awards are organised by the Guild of Fine Food and include 49 judging days from March through to early July.

For more information visit great-tasteawards.co.uk

Care home chain set to take on apprentices

A CARE provider has revealed plans to create 16 apprenticeships at homes across the county.

Coverage Care, which cares for mainly older people in 14 homes, has joined forces with County Training to help young people into work and a career in health and social care.

The 16 apprenticeships will deliver specialist training in health and social care and lead to formal qualifications.

Apprenticeships are available at Briarfields in Shrewsbury, Chillcott Gardens in Madeley, Telford, Farcroft in Wellington, Barclay Gardens in Donnington, Telford, Stone House in Bishop's Castle and Woodcroft in Market Drayton.

The opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24 have been created in response to the Ladder for Shropshire campaign – set up by our sister paper the Shropshire Star – that has the Duke of York as its patron.

David Coull, chief executive of Coverage Care said: "After meeting Prince Andrew at the launch of the Ladder for Shropshire, I am delighted that Coverage Care is working in partnership with County Training to create the apprenticeships.

"At Coverage Care we are committed to developing the skills and talents of our staff and we see apprenticeships as a route to enable us to bring new people and fresh ideas into our organisation."

He added: "County Training was recently graded as 'outstanding' for the delivery of health and social care training so it was a natural partner for us."

Kevin Humphreys, business development and performance manager at County Training, said: "Not only will the successful apprentices be working with a fantastic and valuable employer but they will also be receiving their training from an outstanding health and social care training provider."

For more information about the apprenticeships go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/county-training, call 0345 6789023 or email countytraining@shropshire.gov.uk.

Airports getting on board with Aviramp

AIRPORTS all over the world are lining up to install boarding ramps for aeroplanes made exclusively by a Shropshire manufacturer.

Telford-based Aviramp has won a contract to make eight of the ramps for Cancun Airport in Mexico, with others to follow in the North American country.

It follows a string of orders for the company's unique ramps, which allow disabled passengers to embark and disembark an aircraft without needing to be winched or carried by staff.

The latest orders come as the company makes huge strides in its bid to become an established part of the airline industry.

Aviramp was first established in 2009 when then-parent company Ra'alloy was asked to make a ramp to offload passengers with reduced mobility from planes.

The sketch produced by Graham Corfield has since had a major impact on the industry and the business, which has since moved to larger premises in Stafford Park in Telford.

Now Aviramp has been spun off as a standalone business from the traditional ramp maker, with sales expected to tip past the £3.5 million mark this year.

It has also been granted a patent in the USA for the design of the ramps; has taken on Clive MacMillan, a former director of ground handling company Servisair, as a non-executive director; and has reconfigured its designs so that it has a product which serves the A380, the world's biggest passenger aircraft.

Norway has changed its laws as a result of the Shropshire-made product to ensure that airports have the ability to handle so-called PRMs, or persons of reduced mobility.

"I was always warned that it would take a long time," said Mr Corfield. "But the UK is coming on board and we have got a lot going on."

BUSINESS LATEST

Report by Thom Kennedy

"We think the industry is talking now, and we had enquiries coming in from Cancun, and since then they have said they are going for it."

"I suspect that they have seen the operation where we already have ramps, like Dallas and Charlottesville, and like what they've seen."

The company currently employs 25 staff in Telford, but is expecting to increase its operation in response to the increase in orders.

In the UK, airports in Cardiff and Newquay have brought in different sizes of ramps to accommodate passengers on their departing flights, while a ramp which was on trial in Abu Dhabi is to remain in the Middle East, with more orders on their way.

Australia's flag-carrying airline Qantas is also considering investing in the ramps, while Ryanair and Flybe are among the airlines installing ramps at their destination airports.

British Airways is also trialling the ramps around the country.

Mr Corfield added: "We are going to have to expand, but first of all we are going to subcontract some of the work and make this into an assembly plant."

"I think we are going to see more orders coming in the next couple of weeks, and others are just coming into the gestation period where they look at the ramps. We will be taking on probably another eight to 10 people in the next couple of months."

The ramps are also used by parents with young children, and allows for quicker airport turnarounds, cutting delays and cancellations. ExHome Secretary David Blunkett has presented them to the EU in a bid to relax laws governing aircraft boarding.



Graham Corfield says his company is entering a phase of expansion

Bigger home for packaging firm thanks to bank loan

A LEADING manufacturer of waste-free packaging has more than tripled its capacity following the purchase of larger premises in Telford, helped by a £430,000 loan from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

Founded in 2000, M J Systems Limited has grown to become the market leader in the design and manufacture of reusable transit packaging. It exports to 15 countries in Europe, including Germany and France, with the capability to distribute globally, and has won several industry accolades for its returnable textile packaging systems.

The firm, which also has factories in India, has moved from its previous 14,000-sq ft site in Bridgnorth to its new 26,000-sq ft headquarters at Ace House in Stafford Park, significantly increasing its production capabilities in line with growing global demand for its products.

The move has also allowed the business to open two new showrooms, together with a larger shop floor.

The investment was aided by Lloyds Bank's participation in the government-backed Funding for Lending



Adam Hartshorne, from Lloyds Bank, with Paul, Vicki and Max Derry of M J Systems Ltd

Scheme, which offers competitively priced lending to small and medium sized businesses.

The expansion of the business comes as demand for more cost-effective packaging solutions grows, and the

move to Telford is set to boost local employment with the creation of new jobs to add to the firm's 22-strong team.

Vicki Derry, director of M J Systems Ltd, said: "As the market leader in waste-free transit packaging, it was important to complete a move into new, larger premises in order to cater to the growing demand for our products as firms increasingly focus on sustainability."

"This is part of a continuous expansion programme with improvements to our Indian factories recently completed."

Adam Hartshorne, relationship manager at Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, said: "M J Systems is not only an example of business that is helping Britain to prosper through its thriving export trade, but one which is helping other firms to take important steps towards sustainability whilst cutting their day-to-day costs."

"We look forward to working with the management team as it looks to continue its growth in the months and years to come."

High demand for graduates across region

GRADUATE recruitment in the West Midlands is continuing to grow, but businesses are reporting worrying weaknesses in graduates' readiness for employment, according to new regional analysis of the 2015 CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Survey by Pearson College London.

Ninety five West Midlands businesses took part in a UK-wide survey of 310 companies, which together employ more than a million people. It reveals:

- More than a quarter of West Midlands businesses (26 per cent) increased graduate recruitment in the past year.

However, many businesses in the region report weaknesses in graduates' general readiness for employment, with 22 per cent concerned with graduates' communication skills and nearly half (44 per cent) not satisfied with graduates' levels of business and customer awareness.

- West Midlands businesses look first and foremost for graduates with the right attitudes and aptitudes for the workplace. Nine in ten employers (91 per cent) value these above factors such as degree subject.

Business recognises the value of strong links with higher education, according to the survey. Three quarters (73 per cent) of businesses in the region have developed links with universities and a third (32 per cent) are looking to grow their ties with universities in the future.

Commenting on the survey, Roxanne Stockwell, principal of Pearson College London, said: "While it is excellent news that graduates are in demand, it is worrying that firms are finding that many graduates aren't prepared for the world of work. Many universities have good links with businesses, but it's time for deeper collaboration – with courses designed in partnership with employers and work placements built in as standard."

Do you have any business news to share with our readers? Email thom.kennedy@shropshirestar.co.uk



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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box 418117

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box 418845

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37 yrs. Pls call, ACA Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418843

ANNA, busy mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box 366019

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418795

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a distraction free life of adult fun, thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box 413399

POLLY, 36yrs, cuddly, curvy with fantastic personality, works from home so has time on her hands. Text only to Mailbox No: 4068550

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418609

KERRY Ann, 39yrs hairdresser, loves to run her fingers through hair! Chaps 30+ pls text, no young lads pls. Text only to Mailbox No: 4155057

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418615

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418609

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, winning/dining, WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418587

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun times. Age/Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418577

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418445

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418369

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged person charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, slim, not skinny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299

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PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418277

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414773

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418369

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418347

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416287

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417195

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410847

CAROL, 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50-55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418193

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418007

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417985

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417787

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417787

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417763

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed officer for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417623

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416287

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417663

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416337

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417195

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417091

SHERRIE 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/Looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417067

KAREN 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416989

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416979

FEMALE, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. Text only Mailbox No: 465519

PRETTY slim female, 48, NIS, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friend ship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416727

Hi my name is Zara. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build. I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with GSOH who enjoys going out. Text only Mailbox No: 4362903

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416979

DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling WLTm well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416917

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets. Give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 4172985

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417581

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417419

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417513

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417419

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416337

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TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417417

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417341

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417341

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417285

GWEN 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417233

FUN loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more. GSH and grey hair preferable! Text only to Mailbox No: 4709317

KIND caring lady early 30s, 5ft5, slim fair hair looking for long-term relationship in Leamington Spa area. Text only to Mailbox No: 4527227

HAPPY, fit, 77yr old widow N/S 5ft 3in, GSOH Loves travel, many interests. WLTm man with caravan/camper to share week ends/holidays. Text only to Mailbox No: 4492014

LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417223

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417211

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417195

KATHERINE, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417091

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KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416337

FEMALE, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. Text only Mailbox No: 465519

SHAUN, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418763

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, creative, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 417235

GRAHAM, 50s, 5'10" tall, blue eyes, very smart, car and home owner, solvent, smoker, WLTm a very genuine vicious lady, 36-60 for romantic evenings out and holidays. Staffordshire, South Cheshire, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418815

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416681

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416601

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416521

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416519

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black beauty, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416499

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, cat owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416471

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416337

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTm attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416299

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416235

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416197

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, 26, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416057

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416087

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416085

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very sexy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416083

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415969

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415871

GUY 57, 5'11" looking for no strings fun with same minded lady. Text only to Mailbox No: 4495128

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416603

GOOD looking 36 years old guy seeking a lady to have a lasting friendship/relationship with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4856812

51 year old male divorced, good sense of humour, likes walks and animals, looking for a balanced lady to share happy times with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4860244

MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 418481

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

deaths

ELLIS
Julia
(Julie)

Of Telford Estate. Beloved
Wife of Kenny, loving and
much loved Mum to Steven
and Samantha and their Fam-
ilies, passed away in hospital
after a short illness.

We shall announce the
Funeral arrangements once
they are finalised.

All inquiries please to

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Shrewsbury,
01743 368999

JONES

Pam

nee Pilkington

Of Copthorne, Shrewsbury,
formerly of Stafford. Beloved
Wife of Alistair and a loving
and much loved Mum to
Marcus, Duncan and their
Families. Passed away
suddenly at home.

The Funeral Service will take
place in St George's Church,
Frankwell on Thursday,
September 3, at 11 o'clock,
followed by a Committal at
Emstrey.

Family flowers only please,
however there will be a
retiring collection at St
George's Church.

Further details will be
published later.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
Frankwell Island,
Shrewsbury,
01743 368999

MEADOWS

Beatrice May

(Bea)

Of Hook-a-Gate. Beloved Wife
of the late Alwyn, loving and
much loved Mum to Barbara
and Neil and precious Nana
to Charlotte, passed away at
home.

We shall announce the
Funeral arrangements once
they are finalised.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
Frankwell Island,
Shrewsbury,
01743 368999

SHEPHERD

Phillip

(Phil)

HMRC Investigator.

Adored Son of the late Janet
of Wellington and Brother to
Pat and Colin Thompson.

Passed away suddenly at his
home in Wigan, formerly of
Telford.

The Funeral Ceremony will
take place in Emstrey Crema-
torium Chapel, London Road,
Shrewsbury on Friday,
August 28, at 1pm.

No flowers, although all dona-
tions will support the work
of The RSPCA.

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New Subaru Levorg

The all-new Subaru Levorg will go on sale in the UK at the end of next month priced at £27,495.

The new sport tourer mode is a spiritual successor to the much loved Subaru Legacy Tourer, and promises a compact on-road footprint yet greater interior space than its forebear. The car will be available in a single trim level called GT, with generous levels of standard equipment, including Subaru's iconic All-Wheel Drive drivetrain.

Subaru engineers and designers promise that the Levorg will offer one of the company's most refined cabins created, with a greater use of high quality materials.

Leather-trimmed sports seats with unique to Levorg blue stitching will come as standard, as will Subaru's new factory-fit 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment, connectivity and navigation system.

Leather trim is used generously within the cabin, including the door trims, on the centre console and on top of the multi-function display on the dashboard.

While the Levorg benefits from smaller exterior dimensions than the fourth-generation Legacy Tourer, the new sport tourer offers buyers greater practicality. Not only do occupants enjoy greater leg, head- and shoulder-room than in the last Legacy Tourer, but the capacious 522-litre boot – rising to 1,446 litres with the second row of seats folded down – provides ample room for anything from sports equipment and bicycles to luggage and pets.

The Levorg has been developed with ease-of-use and practicality in mind, and owners are unlikely to find themselves short on space, in spite of the car's compact footprint.



When it goes on sale in the UK, the Levorg will be available with one engine: a newly-developed 1.6-litre DIT (Direct Injection Turbo) Boxer petrol. Paired with Subaru's super-smooth Lineartronic (CVT) transmission, the Levorg offers a refined powertrain.

The new 1.6-litre DIT power unit offers the same performance as Subaru's existing 2.5-litre naturally-aspirated Boxer engine, despite being 36 per cent smaller.

Engineered specifically for its application in the Levorg, the all-new four-cylinder engine produces 170 PS and 250 Nm torque. The all-new four-cylinder engine offers smooth, seamless power delivery and greater efficiency than existing Subaru en-

gines. Flexibility is core to its character, providing power over a wide range of engine speeds and perfectly matching the car's remit as a sport tourer.

The Levorg accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 8.9 seconds, while returning nearly 40mpg on a combined cycle.

Emissions are rated at 164 g/km. With Subaru's famous Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system, Vehicle Dynamics Control and torque vectoring, the Levorg's drivetrain provides unrivalled stability in all conditions.

The new Levorg will continue to uphold Subaru's reputation as a manufacturer of some of the safest cars on the road, with a

strong, light bodysheet and a wide range of passive and active safety technologies.

The new model has a higher proportion of ultra-high tensile steel than other models in the Subaru range, such as the Impreza, with 50 per cent of the body made up of strong, yet light steel alloys for the greatest possible crash safety performance.

It is equipped as standard with the new 'Subaru Rear Vehicle Detection' system (SRVD), which alerts drivers to vehicles which are crossing behind.

Technology

A comprehensive safety package, SRVD combines three technologies: Blind Spot Detection, which alerts drivers to cars sitting in their blind spot; Lane Change Assist, which warns drivers of fast-approaching vehicles behind when the driver indicates to change lane; and Rear Cross Traffic Alert, which detects vehicles passing behind when reversing out of a parking space.

Levorg also features SI Drive (Subaru Intelligent Drive) which allows the driver, via a switch on the steering wheel to choose between two modes according to their mood or the driving environment.

To ensure best-in-class on-road handling, the Levorg is being fitted with Active Torque Vectoring (ATV). ATV effectively brakes the inside wheels under cornering and apportions greater torque to the outside of the car, reducing understeer and oversteer to allow a more predictable and controlled course through corners.

With a range of safety technology, as well as front, front side, curtain and driver knee airbags, whiplash-reducing front seats, and High Beam Assist, the Levorg is expected to receive a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating when it is tested later this year.

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2011 61 PEUGEOT BIPPER HDi Diesel Van. Silver Metallic, Side Loading Door, One Owner, 49,800 miles **£4,999+VAT**



2007 07 NISSAN X-TRAIL AVENTURE 2.2DCi Manual, 4x4, Metallic Silver, leather, Sat Nav, only 48,000 miles **£7799**



2008 08 TOYOTA RAV4 XTR, 5-door, Manual, 4x4 Petrol, Metallic Grey, FSH, 74,000 miles **£6,499**



2008 08 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2TD4 GS Manual, Metallic Black, FSH, 62,000 miles **£10,999**



2011 BMW 520D SE Auto. Metallic Grey, Beige Leather Interior, One Owner, Only 27,000 miles, FSH **£16,499**



2014 14 RENAULT CAPTOR 1.5 DCi. Metallic Red, One Owner, Free Road Tax, FSH, 15,000 miles **£11,999**



2007 07 SKODA FABIA 1.2 CLASSIC 5-door. Black, 66,100 miles, FSH **£2,999**



2012 12 BMW X1 SERIES 2.0d AUTOMATIC Metallic Bronze, 51,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH **£13,999**



2011 11.BMW 320 D SALOON Manual, Blue Metallic, 1 owner, £20 a year road tax, FSH, 58,000 miles **£10,999**



2009 59 SEAT IBIZA SPORT 1.6 Automatic 3-door. One Owner, Only 16,000 miles **£5,699**

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Diesel Selection

14 (14) KIA CEED 2.1.6 CRDI Infra Red.....	£12,950
14 (14) RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE M-Nav Energy	£11,750
13 (13) KIA RIO 1.4 Ecodynamic 2. 5dr. Electric blue.....	£11,850
13 (13) PEUGEOT 208 1.6 HDI ALLURE, 3-Dr, Virtual Blue.....	£10,450
12 (12) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DCI ASENTA. Arctic White.....	£10,250
12 (12) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DCI ASENTA Sport. Force Red.....	£10,750
11 (61) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI ASENTA Red.....	£10,850
11 (11) VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRi 6,000 miles, £30 Road Tax.....	£12,950
11 (11) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 TDI MATCH Shadow Blue.....	DUE IN
10 (10) RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Silver.....	£8,650
09 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 DDi S 5-Dr, Garnet Orange.....	£4,950
09 (59) PEUGEOT 308 S 1.6 HDI Estate. Silver.....	£7,850
09 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5-Dr. Silver.....	£6,750
08 (58) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.3 CDTI BREEZE Steel Blue.....	£3,450
08 (58) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT, Lovely Condition.....	£7,850
08 (58) FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI ZETEC, Metallic Green.....	£6,950
08 (58) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI MATCH, Reflex Silver.....	£6,750
08 (58) FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI ZETEC. Blue.....	£5,750
07 (57) MINI COOPER 1.6 D Chili Red / Chequered Roof.....	£8,250
07 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI SPORT. Shadow Blue.....	DUE IN
07 (57) VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 1.9Tdi S. Shadow Blue, 7 Seats.....	£7,850
07 (57) KIA CEED 1.6 CRdi Petwer Grey.....	£4,750
07 (57) FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCI ZETEC. Silver.....	£3,850
05 (55) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN. Black.....	£3,250

Petrol Selection

14 (14) KIA PICANTO 2.5-dr. Blaze Red, 2,500 miles.....	£8,250
13 (13) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ASENTA in Arctic White.....	DUE IN
13 (13) KIA RIO 2.1.4 in Blaze Red.....	£9,975
12 (12) SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2 SZ4 Red 8,000 miles.....	£8,450

12 (12) RENAULT CLIO 1.2 5-dr. DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, Silver.....

11 (11) HONDA JAZZ 1.4 ES 5-dr, Grey, 3,700 miles.....	£9,650
11 (11) MINI ONE 1.6 3dr. Red, 24,000 miles.....	£7,950
11 (61) NEW KIA PICANTO 1.0 AIR Bright Silver.....	£5,450
10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Turbo. Black.....	WAS £11,450 NOW £10,450
10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRi Technical Grey.....	WAS £11,650 NOW £10,650
10 (10) NEW RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, 6,000 miles.....	WAS £10,250 NOW £9,250
10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRi 5dr. Waterworld Blue.....	£7,850
09 (59) HYUNDAI I10 1.1 ES, 5-dr Red, 16,000 miles.....	£5,450
09 (59) HYUNDAI I10 ES 5-dr. Electric Blue.....	£3,250
09 (59) FIAT PANDA ACTIVE Eco. Silver.....	£4,950
09 (59) MINI COOPER 1.6 Convertible. Blue.....	£9,650
07 (07) FORD KA 70 STYLE Silver.....	£5,250
06 (06) RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS SPORT 3-dr. Black.....	DUE IN
07 (07) VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.6 LUNA Silver.....	DUE IN
06 (56) PEUGEOT 207 SE 16v 5-dr. Silver Grey 9,000 miles.....	£7,450
05 (55) RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 5-Dr in Flame Red.....	DUE IN
05 (55) FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX 5-dr. Nice condition.....	£1,500
02 (02) FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-dr. Green.....	£1,450
04 (04) AUDI A3 2.0 FSI SPORT Red.....	£5,850

4x4 Selection

10 (10) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0CRDi XS 4WD Phantom Black.....	£10,450
10 (60) SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi FIRST EDITION Techno Orange.....	£13,450
08 (58) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS.....	£10,850
08 (08) LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 GS. Silver.....	£10,750
07 (57) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 VVTi+ 3-dr, Red.....	£6,750
07 (07) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS Crystal Blue.....	£4,850
06 (55) LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.0 TD4 FREESTYLE 3-dr.....	£5,650
05 (55) LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 FREESTYLE 5DR. Black.....	£4,850
03 (03) LANDROVER FREELANDER TD4 SERENGETI.....	DUE IN

Automatics

12 (61) VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 SE Ottoman Blue.....	£7,450
08 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB 5-dr.....	DUE IN

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Energy firm follows green way on road

What better vehicle could a company that specialises in cutting edge renewable energy technologies be seen to drive than an all-electric vehicle?

That could certainly be the case for Oswestry based company Geogen as they recently had a Nissan ENV200 all electric van on trial from Greenhous, the automotive company.

Francis Pitt, design manager for Geogen, explains the company profile: "Geogen started in March 2013 a joint venture with the Wynnstay Group and DJ Electrical Contractors. The business advises on and installs renewable energy systems. We have 15 staff and an increasing order book for our products.

"We provide bespoke design solutions to the needs of our customers.

This includes commercial and domestic projects which range from installing biomass wood chip boilers to designing 'Ecohouses' with Solar PV panels, air and ground source heating etc."

The company has been busy in Shropshire and north and mid-Wales installing its sophisticated energy saving products and the opportunity to trial a zero emission all-electric van certainly appealed to Laura Owen, the office manager, as she explains: "An electric vehicle would suit our image as an enterprise providing renewable energy solutions for our customers. The Nissan ENV200 has proved very popular with all who have driven it.

"We were surprised by what a great drive it is and it is ideal for visits to undertake site surveys, local deliveries and servicing. It is ideal to be able to just plug it in overnight and drive off the next day."

Thomas Bebb is a Greenhous Nissan sales executive who is introducing the Nissan ENV200 to businesses in Shropshire. He is rightly delighted with the comments he receives from the companies who have trailed the electric vehicle: "It is definitely a different and very pleasurable driving experience for those new to the vehicle. The specifications on the ENV200 are very good and the zero emissions, no road tax and low "fuel" cost to charge are of benefit to any business where transport costs can have a significant impact upon budgets."

Laura reflects on the impression possessing an electric vehicle can have on prospective customers: "As with most companies we have an Environmental Policy and energy saving, our carbon footprint and use of renewable energy come high on our priority list.

"More and more customers look at whether we operate to the principles we are selling to them. An electric vehicle would send an important and very visual message that we do."

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JAGUAR SELECTION

55 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 Estate Diesel, service history, stunning.....	£34,950
52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles.....	£39,995
V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN.....	POA

CAR OF THE WEEK

54 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 Auto, BRG, 86,000 miles, stunning car.....	£29,995
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VAUXHALL SELECTION

60 VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.8 Silver, 24k, Lady Owner.....	£14,995
09 FIAT BRAVO 1.4 Dynamic, 5 door, Silver, Always.....	£17,995
08 PEUGEOT 207 SHD 1.6 (90), Red, low mileage, full history.....	£39,995
08 FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate, 3 door, bronze metallic.....	£39,995
08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 Ghia, 5 door, blue.....	£33,995
08 FORD KA, blue, 68,000 miles.....	£21,995
07 RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS, Silver.....	SOLD
55 (07) MERCEDES A180 CDI CLASSIC SE Diesel, Silver.....	£37,995
56 VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB, 5dr, Red.....	£36,995
56 CITROEN C2 1.4 SX 3-door, Silver, 50,000 miles.....	SOLD
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic.....	£29,995
55 PEUGEOT 307 XS 2.0 HDI Diesel, Bronze Met, Leather.....	£35,500
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver.....	£24,995

BMW 320 2.2 CI Coupe

Upgraded Alloys, Extensive Service History, Low Mileage for year, Outstanding Condition, Must be Seen..... £34,995

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SX Diesel

Blue exceptional condition..... £11,995

RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE AUTO Leather, Excellent Cond..... £19,995

FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible

..... £17,995

MG TF Convertible, in Yellow..... £19,995

AUTOMATICS

SAAB 95 VECTOR 2.0 AUTOMATIC, Superb condition, must be seen..... £22,995

HONDA CIVIC 1.8 LS, Exceptional Condition, Previously supplied by ourselves to one of our customers 10 Years ago, Owned by same customer since then..... £3,995

4 X 4 / COMMERCIALS

HYUNDAI TERRACAN 2.8 CDX CRDi Diesel, Black, 68,000 miles, this vehicle must be seen to be appreciated..... £29,995

SANGHYONG NEXON Diesel, Low Mileage..... £54,500

JEOP CHEKWEE CRD SPORT 2.8 Diesel, Silver..... £39,995

LDV LWB DIESEL PICK UP..... £4800 + VAT

SUZUKI JIMNY 4x4..... £3,995

RENAULT KANGOO DIESEL SLD High mileage, extensive history..... £2000+VAT

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TO CLEAR

53 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 16 Valve Club, 7 Seater, Blue.....	113K	£1,495
S VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORT 16V 1.8 Silver, Service History, 12 Month Mot.....	57K	£995

DUE IN

58 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN Black, Service History.....	36K	DUE IN
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COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

60 MERC. SPRINTER 313 CDI LWB White, Side Door, Service History.....	SOLD	
60 TRANSIT 280 SWB STD. Roof, White, Full Service History.....	49K	£7,745
10 TRANSIT T280 White, Air Con, Sliding Door, Service History.....	50K	£7,495
60 CITROEN DISPATCH LWB HDI (Year 2011) White, Twin Side Doors, One Owner, Service History.....	45K	£5,495
10 VW CADDY MAXI TDI 104 LWB C20 Twin Side Doors, White, Service History.....	78K	£5,675
60 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI SE 3 Seater, White, One Owner, Service History.....	47K	£4,695
11 PEUGEOT BIPPER HDI PROFESSIONAL Side Door, White, Central Locking, Air Conditioning, Service History.....	57K	£4,499
59 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI S 850 Sid White, Service History.....	70K	£3,999
10 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI S White, Service History, One Owner.....	72K	£3,995

PART EX AND FINANCE AVAILABLE SUBJECT TO STATUS.
WE BUY CARS & VANS FOR CASH

11 FORD MONDEO EDGE TDCI EST. Silver, Full Serv. Hist., One Prev. Owner.....

11 VW GOLF S TSI 5 Door, Blue, Full Serv. History, One Owner.....	50K	SOLD
11 VW POLO SEL TDI 90 1.6 5 Door, Silver, Air, One Owner, Alloy Wheels, F.s.h, 30 Road Tax.....	55K	£7,830
12 SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4 Blue, Full Service History, One Owner 30 Road Tax.....	10K	£5,495
60 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, Grey, Service History, 30 Road Tax.....	25K	£5,995
12 NISSAN MICRA ASENTA 1.2 5 Door, Met. Red, Full Service History, 30 Road Tax.....	42K	£5,650
60 PEUGEOT 207 S, 1.4 5 Door, Black, Air Con, Elec. Windows, Service Hist.....	36K	£4,890
60 TOYOTA YARIS T3 WTI S-A AUTO., Met. Blue, 5 Door, Service History.....	30K	£4,495
09 PEUGEOT 207 WERVIE 1.4 5 Dr., Blue, Cd, Air Con, Alloy Wheels, Serv. Hist.....	49K	£4,250
59 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME 3 Door, Met. Blue, Alloy Wheels, Serv. History.....	38K	£4,375
57 FIESTA GHIA 16V 1.4 Silver, Leather Seats, Air Con, Service History.....	35K	£3,995
60 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2 16V, Black, Alloys, Service History.....	50K	£3,650
60 NISSAN PIVO IN-TEC Grey, Service History 20 Road Tax.....	46K	£3,650
09 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO ACTIVE 77 Blue, Service History.....	44K	£2,995
06 SUZUKI WAGON R EST., Blue, Full Service History, One Owner.....	63K	£2,195
05 FORD KA Silver, 2 Owners, Low Mileage.....	22K	£1,995

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Small



Medium



Large



MPV



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4x4



SPORT

TYPICAL EXAMPLE:	
TOTAL CASH PRICE	£3,500
APR	7.9%
LOAN PERIOD	60 MONTHS
WEEKLY PAYMENTS	£16
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£67
TOTAL	£4,000

DEAL OF THE WEEK



Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Zetec 115
Buy this car from only £34.00 per week

DEAL OF THE WEEK



Nissan Micra 1.2 Visia 2012
Buy this car from only £25.00 per week

DEAL OF THE WEEK



Renault Grand Scenic 1.5 dci
7 seater 2011
Buy this car from only £39.00 per week



Seat Ibiza 1.6 Tdi Cr Sport coupe 2010
Buy this car from only £28.00 per week



Kia Rio 1.1 Crdi lsg 2012
Buy this car from only £35.00 per week



Peugeot 208 1.4 Hdi Active 2014
Buy this car from only £39.00 per week



Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Sxi 2007
Buy this car from only £18.00 per week



Hyundai i20 Crdi 1.4 Comfort 2011
Buy this car from only £25.00 per week



Vauxhall Astra 1.9 Sri Cdti Sport 2009
Buy this car from only £23.00 per week



Mazda 2 1.3 Ts 2012
Buy this car from only £24.00 per week



Vauxhall Astra 1.7 Cdti Se Ecoflex Estate 2012
Buy this car from only £34.00 per week



Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 Se 2012
Buy this car from only £25.00 per week



Kia Sorento 2.5 Crdi Xs 2009
Buy this car from only £41.00 per week



Vauxhall Agila 1.4 Design 2009
Buy this car from only £18.00 per week



Ford Grand Cmax 1.6 tdc Zetec 7 Seater 2012
Buy this car from only £39.00 per week



Peugeot 107
Buy this car from only £28.00 per week



Peugeot 107 Allure
Buy this car from only £28.00 per week



Ford Ka 1.3 Tdci Collection 2011
Buy this car from only £28.00 per week



Chevrolet Matiz 1.0 s 2007
Buy this car from only £14.00 per week



Peugeot 308 1.6 vti s Automatic 2008
Buy this car from only £18.00 per week



Suzuki Swift 1.2 sz3 a/c 2012
Buy this car from only £25.00 per week



Ford Fiesta 1.6 tdc titanium 2012
Buy this car from only £37.00 per week



Fiat 500 Lounge
Buy this car from only £29.00 per week



Fiat 500c 1.4 lounge
Buy this car from only £29.00 per week



Vauxhall Astra 1.3 cdti
Buy this car from only £26.00 per week



Kia Venga
Buy this car from only £27.00 per week



Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 se 2012
Buy this car from only £26.00 per week

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£1000 MINIMUM
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EXCHANGE**

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TYPICAL EXAMPLE

Total Cash Price:	£3200	Monthly Payments:	£65
APR:	7.9%	Weekly Payments:	£15
Term of Loan:	60 Months	Total Payable:	£3900



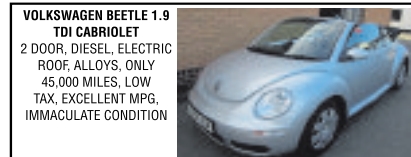
**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6
TDI BLUEMOTION**
**FREE TAX ** ONLY 14,000
MILES, UPTO 65 MPG,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, STILL
UNDER VW WARRANTY,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £55 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3543



FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI EDGE
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
UPTO 65 MPG, 6 SPEED
DIESEL, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3515



**VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.9
TDI CABRIOLET**
2 DOOR, DIESEL, ELECTRIC
ROOF, ALLOYS, ONLY
45,000 MILES, LOW
TAX, EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £32 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3563



**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 TDI
MATCH BLUEMOTION TECH**
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
UPTO 65 MPG, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, REVERSE
PARKING SENSORS,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3537



**VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT
2.0 TDI ESTATE**
DSG AUTO, DIESEL,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, UPTO
60 MPG, BLUEMOTION,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3526



DACIA DUSTER 1.5 DCI
5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW TAX,
EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3574



BMW 1 SERIES 2.0 TD SE
5 DOOR, 6 SPEED DIESEL,
FULL LEATHER, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3573

CARS OF THE WEEK

FIAT 500 1.2 CONVERTIBLE LOUNGE STOP START



ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
CONVERTIBLE, ELECTRIC
ROOF, ALLOYS, FULL
LEATHER, ONLY 9,000
MILES, IPOD CONNECTION,
LOW INSURANCE, UPTO 65
MPG, STILL UNDER FIAT
WARRANTY TILL 2017,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3519

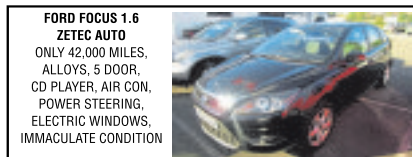
MINI COOPER 1.6TD LONDON 12 EDN



** FREE TAX ** 6 SPEED
DIESEL, UPTO 65 MPG,
WHITE, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
LOW INSURANCE,
BLACK ROOF,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3488

BUY NOW - PAY NOTHING TILL OCTOBER 2015



**FORD FOCUS 1.6
ZETEC AUTO**
ONLY 42,000 MILES,
ALLOYS, 5 DOOR,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £25 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3578



**SKODA FABIA 2 1.6
TIPTRONIC 16V**
5 DOOR, AUTO, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
ONLY 48,000 MILES,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £24 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3199



**SEAT IBIZA 1.6 TDI FR
SPORT COUPE**
3 DOOR, ONLY £20 TAX PER
YEAR, DIESEL, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING, UPTO
60 MPG, LOW INSURANCE,
IMMACULATE CONDITION,
ONLY 16,000 MILES

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £39 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3522



CITROEN C1 1.4 HDI VTR
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
DIESEL, UPTO 65 MPG,
LOW INSURANCE,
CD PLAYER,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £22 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3569



PEUGEOT 208 1.2 ALLURE
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
HALF LEATHER, ONLY 7,000
MILES, 3 DOOR, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
P/STEERING, E/WINDOWS,
UNDER PEUGEOT
WARRANTY TILL 2017,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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Shropshire Country Cricket League

Premier League

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Newport	18	11	5	2	1329	
Wem	18	10	3	3	2311	
Reman Services	18	11	5	1	1300	
Frankley	18	13	3	2	2278	
St Georges	18	8	3	3	2452	
Brosley	18	8	2	7	1232	
Ludlow & S.S.	18	6	1	9	2203	
Quatt	18	5	3	2	2188	
Madley	18	6	2	8	2197	
Borners Heath	18	5	0	12	1168	
Cound	18	2	12	12	1144	
Wroxeter Grove	18	2	12	12	1123	

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Shelfton	18	10	2	3	3315	
Albrighton	18	13	1	2	2315	
Forton	18	11	3	3	1314	
Aliscott	18	9	3	5	1273	
Albury	18	9	3	5	1273	
Newtown	18	7	0	8	3248	
Knockin & Kinn	18	7	1	8	2238	
Market Drayton	18	7	2	6	3221	
Beacon	18	5	3	10	1194	
Lilleshall	18	3	3	11	1184	
Pontesbury	18	3	4	10	1156	
Tibberton	18	2	12	12	1151	

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Condover	18	10	5	1	2318	
Wellington III	18	9	3	4	2265	
Ellesmere	18	9	4	5	2264	
Wiley	18	8	4	5	2264	
Welshpool	18	8	4	4	2240	
Montgomery	18	7	4	6	1232	
Church Stretton	18	5	3	8	2182	
Cae Glas	18	5	3	8	3180	
Shrewsbury III	18	5	4	8	1176	
Prees	18	4	1	10	3171	
Bishops Castle	18	3	3	11	1168	
Much Wenlock	18	2	12	13	1145	

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Iscoyd & F.B.	18	10	5	2	1309	
Wheaton Aston	18	9	3	4	1305	
Church Aston	18	10	2	5	1277	
Shifnal	18	9	4	4	1267	
St Georges II	18	7	3	6	3228	
Oswestry III	18	7	3	6	3228	
Ludlow & SS III	18	5	3	9	1197	
Calverhall	18	4	2	8	4196	
Chelmarsh	18	4	2	8	4196	
Corvedale	18	4	5	8	1178	
Wroxeter Grove III	18	3	6	8	1154	
Harpers	18	3	6	8	3142	

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Trysil & S.	18	10	4	1	29	0
Hodnet & Peplow	17	10	9	4	25	0
Harcourt	17	10	9	4	25	0
St Georges III	17	10	9	4	25	0
Overton-on-Dee	17	6	10	4	41	0
Hinstock	16	6	6	4	47	0
Acton Reynald	16	6	6	4	29	0
Coton Hill	16	6	6	4	29	0
Beacon Hill	16	4	12	2	0	0
Gutshill	17	8	3	6	4	0
Quatt III	16	7	8	3	8	0

Division 4A

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Newport III	18	11	4	1	2333	
Borners Heath III	18	7	7	2	2295	
Worfield III	18	7	2	7	2173	
Cound III	18	6	4	6	2262	
Wem III	18	5	8	3	2261	
Albury III	18	5	8	3	2257	
Wellington IV	18	5	8	3	2257	
Knockin & Kinn III	18	4	7	5	2192	
Frankton III	18	5	5	6	2172	
Reman Services III	18	5	5	6	2172	
St Georges IV	18	2	12	11	1119	
Whitchurch III	18	1	2	11	4113	

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Bridgnorth III	18	13	1	0	1383	
Quayside	18	14	1	3	0335	
Pontesbury III	18	13	2	2	1300	
Albrighton II	18	10	3	3	2277	
Acton Reynald II	18	10	3	3	2277	
Shrewsbury IV	18	8	1	7	2210	
Ludlow & S.S. IV	18	6	3	5	2208	
Lilleshall II	18	6	2	7	3188	
Knockin & Kinn IV	18	6	2	7	3188	
Corvedale II	18	5	3	9	1186	
Lilleshall III	18	3	6	6	3146	
Wellington V	18	4	4	10	1144	
Much Wenlock II	18	2	4	11	1141	
Llanidloes II	18	2	4	10	2135	
Aliscott II	18	3	4	10	1115	
Madley II	18	3	4	10	1115	

Reserve Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Cound	18	12	2	3	1332	
Ludlow & S.S.	18	8	3	3	1278	
Quatt	18	4	4	2	2275	
Reman Services	18	9	2	6	1274	
Wem	18	6	4	5	3258	
Quatt	18	6	4	5	3258	
St Georges	18	6	3	7	2232	
Wellington	18	7	4	6	1231	
Frankton	18	6	2	9	1210	
Beacon	18	2	7	9	1187	
Madley	18	3	4	8	3173	
Borners Heath	18	3	2	12	1132	

Reserve Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Knockin & Kinn	18	10	1	1	2313	
Lilleshall	18	8	4	3	2306	
Albury	18	8	4	4	2282	
Wiley	18	8	4	4	2208	
Forton	18	5	4	8	1197	
Wroxeter Grove	18	6	4	6	2190	
Bridgnorth	18	2	7	9	1188	
Cae Glas	18	3	9	4	2179	
Condover	18	5	6	5	2169	
Welshpool	18	5	3	8	2157	
Aliscott	18	2	10	10	2146	

Reserve Division 3

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Montgomery	18	11	2	2	3309	
Ellesmere	18	10	2	3	1271	
Market Drayton	18	9	2	5	1254	
Brosley	18	10	2	5	1251	
Shifnal	18	7	4	6	1236	
Iscoyd & F.B.	18	7	4	6	1236	
Newtown	18	7	1	9	1231	
Oswestry	18	6	5	4	3229	
Bishops Castle	18	5	2	10	1187	
Tibberton	18	5	2	10	1187	
St Georges	18	5	2	10	1134	
Wroxeter Grove	18	2	10	4	1167	

Birmingham & District

Premier Cricket League

First Teams Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Shrewsbury	18	11	1	4	0	2282	
Wellington	19	13	6	1	4	2219	
Knockin & D.	18	10	1	6	0	1262	
Oswestry	18	10	3	4	0	1253	
Kidderminster	18	9	2	6	0	1242	
Walsley	18	9	2	6	0	1242	
W.D. Martinstown	18	7	2	7	0	2224	
Kenilworth W.	18	7	0	9	0	2191	
Barnt Green	18	6	1	8	0	2187	
Drifford	18	2	11	0	0	1142	
W.Ton	18	4	1	12	0	1137	
Brockhampton	18	3	1	13	0	1136	

Division One

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Walsall	18	13	0	3	0	2306	
Smethwick	18	9	4	3	0	2270	
Leamton Spa	18	10	1	0	0	2267	
Old Hill	18	8	4	5	0	2248	
Barnards Grm.	18	8	1	7	0	2220	
Himley	18	9	2	7	0	2199	
Bromsgrove	18	7	3	6	0	2214	
Attok	18	6	3	8	0	1198	
Wellington	18	5	1	10	0	2142	
Harborne	18	5	2	10	0	2142	
Oswestry	18	3	1	12	0	2135	

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bridgnorth	18	14	2	1	0	332	
Putticon Field	18	12	3	2	0	1321	
Sutton	18	10	1	6	0	1246	
Tamworth	18	7	5	5	0	1225	
Halesowen	18	8	0	6	0	1224	
Coveney/NW	18	7	4	7	0	2222	
Shifnal	18	7	4	7	0	2213	
O Elzabethans	18	5	5	8	0	1196	
Wombourne	18	5	3	9	0	1231	
Brewd	18	4	4	10	0	1149	
Stourbridge	18	3	5	9	0	1149	
Water Orton	18	4	2	11	0	1124	
Easton	18	4	2	11	0	1124	

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
C & R Hawks	18	14	0	2	0	2317	
St Ford-on-Avon	18	11	2	4	0	2289	
Aston Manor	18	9	1	7	0	1249	
Fordhouses	18	8	1	7	0	1244	
Streety	18	8	1	7	0	2225	
Pelsall	18	8	1	8	0	1223	
Worfield	18	8	1	8	0	1216	
Worcester	18	6	3	8	0	1211	
Whitchurch	18	7	0	10	0	1195	
Aswood Bank	18	7	0	10	0	1195	
Water Orton	18	7	0	12	0	1182	
Kings Heath	18	3	2	11	0	1149	

Second Teams

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Moseley	18	13	4	0	0	2278	
Leamton Spa	18	8	4	3	0	2375	
Waintry	18	10	2	4	0	2263	
Halesowen	18	9	3	5	0	2263	
Knockin & D.	18	8	3	6	0	2245	
W.D. Martinstown	18	7	5	4	0	2223	
Kidderminster	18	7	3	6	0	2212	
Oswestry III	18	7	3	6	0	2212	
Harborne	18	5	3	8	0	2187	
Attok	18	4	2	10	0	1157	
Himley	18	4	2	10	0	1157	
Barnt Green	18	4	2	10	0	1140	

Division One

Stock.....	18	4	2	10	0	21
Limley.....	18	4	3	10	0	11
Arnt Green.....	18	4	1	12	0	11
Division One						
	P	W	D	L	T	A
Shifnal.....	18	12	2	3	0	1290
Coveney/NW.....	18	10	3	3	0	2286
Halesowen.....	18	8	3	6	0	2286
Walsall.....	18	9	1	6	0	2286
Shrewsbury.....	18	8	3	6	0	1290
Wolverhampton.....	18	6	4	6	0	2286

Shropshire Cricket League fixtures

Saturday Premier Division

Newport v Quatt; Broseley v Cound; Wem v Ludlow & South Shropshire; Frankton v Reman Services; Madeley v Wroxeter Grove; Bomere Heath v St Georges

Division One

Lilleshall v Alberbury; Albrighton v Shelton; Tibberton v Newtown; Forton v Allscott; Market Drayton v Beacon; Pontesbury v Knockin & Kinnerley

Division Two

Wellington III v Ellesmere; Condoever v Much Wenlock; Welshpool v Willey; Fries v Bishop's Castle; Cae Glas v Montgomery; Shrewsbury III v Church Stretton

Division Three

Wheaton Aston v Chelmarsh; Wroxeter Grove III v Oswestry II; Corvedale v Harpers; Shifnal III v Ludlow & South Shropshire III; Calverhall v Church Aston; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v Llanidloes

Division 4

Beacon v Overton-on-Dee; Hinstock v Guilsfield; Quatt III v Acton Reynald; Coton Hall v Harcourt; Hodnet & Peplow v St Georges III

Division 5

Ludlow & South Shropshire IV v Corvedale II; Allscott III v Albrighton II; Bridgnorth III v Lilleshall III; Much Wenlock II v Shrewsbury IV; Acton Reynald II v Quayside

Reserve Division One

St Georges II v Bomere Heath II; Reman Services II v Frankton II; Quatt II v Newport II; Cound II v Wellington IV; Ludlow & South Shropshire II v Wem II; Beacon II v Madeley II

Reserve Division Two

Alberbury IV v Lilleshall II; Shifnal IV v Condoever II; Willey II v Welshpool II; Allscott II v Forton II; Wroxeter Grove II v Cae Glas II; Knockin & Kinnerley II v Pontesbury II

Reserve Division Three

Ellesmere II v Broseley II; Oswestry IV v Wroxeter Grove IV; Newtown II v Tibberton II; Bishops Castle II v Shifnal IV; Montgomery II v Market Drayton II; St Georges IV v Iscoyd & Fenns Bank II

Sunday Division Four A

Alberbury III v Frankton III; Bomere Heath III v Cound III; Newport III v Wem III; Wellington V Reman Services III; Knockin & Kinnerley III v Madeley III; Worfield III v Whitchurch III

Division Five

Pontesbury III v Knockin & Kinnerley IV; Lilleshall IV v Wellington VI; Llanidloes II v Madeley IV

Mitchell helps Ellesmere to valuable draw

ELLESMERE remain in the promotion hunt in the Shropshire League division two after being involved in a tight draw against leaders and title favourites Condoever. In a 30 overs a side affair due the threat of rain, Condoever's batting fell away for 130, Tom Davies taking 3-19 and Jonathan Mitchell 3-27. Mitchell, as he has done so often this season, led the Ellesmere reply with 64 at the top of the order after three early ducks (all claimed by Dougie Farr with 4-21), had undermined their chase. The home side eventually held out on 115-8 by the close to claim a useful 10 points. MONTGOMERY II roared ahead at the top of the reserve division three after easing to an eight wicket victory at Shifnal III. Shifnal posted 170-9 from 40 overs and Monty looked to be in a bit of bother before Jack Williams (69no) and James Corfield (66no) steered the league leaders to victory. GUILDSFIELD v Acton Reynald in division four was cancelled.

Lowe takes overall race series title

A RECORD field of 109 runners raced in the traditional Maldwyn Harriers' race series finale on the testing 4.5 mile Neil Howells Memorial Race course in Montgomery. In a fitting finish to the series, Maldwyn's Tim Davies won an exciting race to edge out Dominic Jones (Shropshire Shufflers). Sian Powell (Kidderminster and Stourport) again won the women's race when posting a time of 34.13. Jacqui Loxam (36.22) was the first Maldwyn woman home ahead of Jenny Evans and Margo Martin. In the overall race series, Oswestry's Ian Lowe was the men's champion with Jacqui Loxam top women. Maldwyn Harriers' next race is the Source of the Severn, run over eight miles of the Hafren Forest and takes place on Sunday, September 6.

Charity cricket day back on Sunday

ONE of the Oswestry area's top sporting charity events returns on the Bank Holiday weekend when the Bedouins Cricket Club stages its annual fundraising day at Oswestry CC's Morda Road ground.

This Sunday will see the seventh renewal of the event, which has raised £30,000 since it was inaugurated in memory of the late Matthew Jones, a former Bedouins player. This year's chosen charity is Hope House Children's Hospices.

"Once again we've been blown away by the generosity of the town's businesses in donating auction and raffle prizes for the event," said Andy Hall, one of the organisers.

"The day will follow the usual format with some added extras this year. The cricket tournament starts at 10am, and the barbecue and fun day get under way at 1pm.

"We have swing boats, a bouncy castle, bottle stall, football and golf games, cake and sweet stall, and face painting. There will also be some extra children's games and a tug of war to add to the fun, as well as another innovation – a hot chilli pepper eating competition."

In addition to the regular fundraising for Hope House, Oswestry butcher John Hartshorn will be staging his "Slaphead Challenge", which will see several people having their heads shaved in aid of the Lingen Davies Cancer Relief Fund. More than £3,000 has been pledged already.

In the evening Still Standing will again be providing the live music, followed by the auction, and the now notorious cabaret act. The night will conclude with dancing until late.

"We've all got our fingers crossed for some great weather," added Andy. "Everyone is welcome as always – please join us and help raise lots of money for Hope House.

For more details or if you want to donate a prize/ bottle, ring Andy Hall on 07508 367605.

Firsts slide but Kirk beams for seconds

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

RELEGATION-HAUNTED Oswestry crashed to a 100-run defeat at Himley as hopes of preserving their status in the Birmingham Cricket League division one took another dive.

Propping up the table, the Morda Road men were again put to the sword by Himley's former Indian Test ace Wassim Jaffer who cracked a fine century as the home side racked up a total of 290-5 in their 50 overs.

Jaffer hit 124, including 12 fours and three sixes, Will Raine added 58 before falling to Jonny Davies – his first senior wicket – and Worcester-shire's Tom Kohler-Cadmore scored 32.

Robbie Clarke was Oswestry's most successful bowler with 2-64, including the wicket of Jaffer, but the real highlight for the visitors was the sight of Jonathan Miles bowling pace for the first time this season. Miles, who has been suffering from a knee injury, took 0-23 off 10 superb overs.

Oswestry's reply started in bright sunshine but after 25 overs a tremendous storm brought an end to the game.

They had reached 80-5 by that stage, with Aussie opener Michael Johnson unbeaten on 35, but their total was 100 short of the Duckworth/ Lewis par score.

A century by Josh Kirk led OSWESTRY II to a crushing victory over Pelsall II, edging his side closer to promotion in the Birmingham League 2nd XI League (N).

Opener Kirk was ninth out for 109, including 16 fours and two sixes, as Oswestry reached 271 all out, with skipper Josh Coleridge adding 45.

Coleridge (3-21), Xavie Clarke (3-27) and Owen Aspinall (2-42) then ripped through the Pelsall innings, which closed on 116.

OSWESTRY III'S match against Harpers at Morda Road on Sunday was rained off, and the fourths would probably have wished their game at Newtown II had suffered a similar fate.

Newtown openers Jack Morris (91) and Dave Wilkinson (84) put on 176 before Newtown were bowled out for 253, with youngster Keenan Oakley taking 3-12 and skipper Nick Woodcock 3-53.

In reply Oswestry were bowled out for just 54, as only two players reached double figures. Jim Phillips and Ivor Pearsall each made 12.

■ Oswestry face a double header this weekend, with a trip to Moseley on Saturday followed by a home game against Bromsgrove on Bank Holiday Monday (noon).

The seconds have a crunch top-of-the-table game against Bridgnorth II at Morda Road on Saturday (12.30), and they visit Wombourne II on Monday.

Oswestry III are away to Wroxeter Grove III on Saturday, and the fourths take on Wroxeter Grove IV at Whittington.

Runners ready for Ellesmere 10k



Oswestry Olympians Paul Jones (centre) and Ollie Blake (far left) in a previous Ellesmere 10k

THE fabulously fast Ellesmere 10km race is back this year – with the event set to prove as popular as ever.

This summer's race takes place on Sunday from Lakelands School, with a 11am start, and has personal best potential for runners prepared to take it on.

But those hoping to take part need to hurry to book their entries as the race entry is capped at 500. The prize money this year is £100 for first place, second (£50) and third (£25).

The race is a mix of road and well surfaced flat trail, very gentle undulations with just one sharp turn and a hump-back canal bridge to negotiate, as well as some stunning scenery for runners.

Chip timing and technical T-shirt to all runners is included as well as free parking, while the venue at Lakelands School has changing facilities and refreshments on offer.

Organisers hope the sun will again shine on this race, while there are plenty of scenic vantage points for spectators to watch the race.

More details and online entry can be found at oswestryolympians.com

Llanfair leak three goals after the break

LLANFAIR United were handed a harsh lesson from their first home outing in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after succumbing 3-0 to Denbigh Town at the Mount Field.

After their 5-2 victory at Buckley Town in the opening fixture, spirits were high in the Llanfair camp but the league new boys succumbed to three second half goals.

After an even first period, Denbigh never looked back after taking the lead on the break through a Joe Vaughan own goal.

Warren Duckett made it 2-0 on 61 minutes as Llanfair chased the game and Kristian Pierce completed the scoring as the visitors showed some clinical finishing.

Ben Jones missed a chance to grab a late consolation, leaving Llanfair with much to ponder ahead of Saturday's tough trip to title favourites Prestatyn Town.

GUILDSFIELD are joint top after continuing their winning start to the season with a 2-1 success over newcomers Gresford Athletic.

Gareth Jones gave the Guils a 14th minute lead, and Jack Richards doubled the advantage on 75, before Gresford – who finished with 10 men – grabbed a last minute reply from Rhys Lloyd.

Guilsfield carried a forward threat throughout the game but without the fluid performance of the previous week despite going ahead when Jones latched onto Jenkins' through pass.

After the break, Gresford's Graeme Sutcliffe was shown a red card after tripping up Jenkins on the edge of the box and the Guils made the most of their one man advantage to extend their lead with a left footed strike from Richards.

With all subs used, the game finished with 10 men for each team.

■ A goal from Toby Evans gave Llanfair reserves a 1-0 victory at Llanymynech in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League.

Welshpool facing crunch on Saturday

WELSHPOOL are focused on a top five finish in the Shropshire Cricket League division two.

After picking up 15 points from their dominant draw at Shrewsbury III, the Maesydre side are looking in good shape as they prepare for Saturday's home clash against Willey who lie one place above.

Invited to bat at Shrewsbury College, the Maesydre side prospered to the tune of 176-9 in their 35 overs, with Tom Anderson cracking 53, opener Roger Knight 43 and Dan Chodecki 38. Toby Pegge was the pick of the bowlers with 4-16.

In reply, the home side toiled to 117-5 in their overs, opener Michael Gerrard put scoring with 29 as Rob Pengelly took 4-19 from 11 overs.

With four games left, Ellesmere look to maintain their promotion push at Wellington III, while Montgomery take on Cae Glas.

Frankton know there can be no half measures when they welcome Reman Services in the premier division on Saturday.

Frankton are skittled for 60

FRANKTON'S challenge in the Shropshire Cricket League premier division faltered after being shot out for just 60 on their way to a three wicket defeat at Bomere Heath.

Put in, they were soon on the back foot as Chris Stevens (7-24) tore into the innings, with opener Ian Whitticase (13) and No11 Stuart Lammie, with 12 not out, the only two players to get into double figures.

Bomere also found the going tough in reply, but edged over the line with three wickets left, Llyr Thomas hitting 25, while there were two wickets apiece for Harry Stow, Lammie and Archie Dickin.

Glas show cracks in defeat at Stretton

CAE GLAS' topsy turvy season continued as they slumped to a disappointing eight wicket defeat at Church Stretton to remain in the lower half of the Shropshire League division two.

Having been buoyed by the previous week's fine 24-point success against Shrewsbury III, the Glas found themselves shackled last weekend as they returned from south Shropshire with just two points.

Put in to bat on a damp wicket after losing a crucial toss, they laboured to 109-7 in 40 overs against some accurate home bowling.

Andy Griffiths batted patiently for his 20 with support coming from Gareth Edgerton (30) and a dashing 35 from Tim Turner. Martin Nichols was the pick of the Stretton attack with 2-23.

A weary, wayward Glas attack toiled manfully but had no luck as a drying wicket became easier to bat

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

on and opener Saif Khalid rode his luck in making 49 as Stretton cruised to victory by a margin of eight wickets with almost 14 overs to spare.

Leaders KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II maintained their push for the reserve division two title in a drawn encounter away to CAE GLAS II at Gatacre to return with 15 points.

Nick Remon (56) put them on course for 183-6 in a reduced 35 overs due to expected rain, skipper Julian Gallimore finishing unbeaten with a belligerent 36 as the batsmen cashed in late on and Lawrence Hitchen earlier made 30.

Shaun Southern was the most successful of the bowlers with 3-50 and Nathan Bartram took 2-25.

Ladies go goal crazy with 11 in first game



TNS' Laura Morris netted four against Walsall. Pic: Josh Pearce.

THE goals flowed as The New Saints Ladies opened their West Midlands Regional Women's Premier League campaign with a 11-1 romp against Walsall Ladies at Park Hall.

Laura Morris and Emily Ridge both scored four times, with Morris opening her account when lobbing the first from 30 yards after just 55 seconds.

Less than two minutes later, the Saints doubled their lead through Ridge who capitalised on a poor back pass to beat the keeper, and a third goal arrived just seven minutes into the game when Sophie Edwards converted from a corner.

Newly promoted Walsall pulled a goal back in the 18th minute through Janelle Thomas' bullet header but TNS quickly restored their three goal lead when Morris netted her second.

The Saints added a fifth when Ridge slotted in a rebound after Maddie Jones' shot had been parried and Morris completed her hat-trick when her shot squirmed past the keeper for a 6-1 interval lead.

TNS continued to have their chances after the break, Ridge sealing her hat-trick when rounding the keeper and substitute Sam Berry made it 8-1.

Ridge then notched her fourth, Morris also scored her fourth goal of the afternoon before sub Cloe Wilkinson rounded off the scoring with a fine strike from the edge of the box in the last minute.

The Saints' next game is away to Knowle Ladies in the FA Cup first qualifying round on Sunday, September 6.

Roberts bags five for goal mad Berriew

JOHNNY Roberts scored five times as Berriew hammered Newbridge 11-2 in the first qualifying round of the Welsh Cup, George Davies also finding the net twice.

WELSHPOOL kept their flag flying after coming through 5-4 in a thriller away to Borth, but **LLANFYLLIN** bowed out 4-2 against Machynlleth despite replies from Lee Morris and Zak Ward.

Abermule slumped 6-1 at Aberaeron whose Gareth Evans fired a hat-trick, with Gareth Severs, Simon Clarke and Chris Wilkins also finding the net.

Kerry are also out with a 4-0 exit at Knighton Town while it was also the end for Presteigne who lost 4-2 at home to Tywyn Brynrcrug despite a brace from Ieuan Crowe.

Miefod get superb start

MIEFOD made a flying start to the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one season as they eased to a 4-0 win at Trefonen courtesy of Hywel Bennett, Lewys Lew- is, Abba Salahi and an own goal.

Results

Division one: Llanymynech 0 Llanfai res 1, Trefonen 0 Miefod 4.

Division two: Llangedwyn 2 Newtown Wanderers 3, Maesyrhandir 0 Waterloo Cols 2, Newtown Rovers 4 Berriew res 1.

Fox Lane bowlers maintain title push

HIGH-FLYING Fox Lane stayed firmly on course for both promotion and the title in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division four with a convincing 8-2 victory against Church C.

Three single figure wins helped seal a 52-shots (159-107) aggregate success with Terry Coles taking the coppers to seven, while Roger Woof won to eight and Simon Hayman 21-9.

With three matches left to play, Fox Lane now have a seven point lead at the top of the table and are 16 points clear of their third placed rivals.

At the other end of the table, **LLANFYLLIN A** remain second bottom and in a real relega-

tion scrap after their 7-3 (148-124) loss away to Ceiriog Valley C. Gwyn Gwalchmai (21-10) was the pick of the winners for the visitors.

Second placed **WHITTINGTON B** remain well placed for promotion from division three after sealing a 7-3 (150-123) home victory over lowly Royston A.

Andy Cawthray was on song with a 21-3 success and Brian Sinker won to eight to consolidate his place at the top of the averages.

BLACK LION remain fourth despite their 9-1 (158-127) reverse at Plas Kynaston A, Mike Jones (21-11) getting their consolation.

In division five, second placed **LLANRHAEDR B** boosted their promotion hopes with a slender 6-4 victory at Chirk C in which they took the aggregate by just two shots (139-137) with Doreen Barnes winning to eight and Ted Thomas to nine.

Results

Division three: Plas Kynaston A 9 (158) Black Lion 1 (127), Weston Rhyn C 7 (148) Ceiriog Valley B 3 (121), Johnstown C 6 (145) Chirk B 4 (142), Ruabon B 8 (147) Johnstown D 2 (106), Whittington B 7 (150) Royston A 3 (123), Bersham 8 (156) Whittington E 2 (104).

Division four: Fox Lane 8 (159) Church C 2 (107), Ceiriog Valley C 7 (148) Llanyfyllin A 3 (124), Flexys B 3 (120) Llangollen B 7 (141), Llanrhaeadr C 2 (118) Llangynog C 8 (153), Overton B 7 (150) Plas Kynaston B 3 (134), Johnstown E 6 (136) Llanymynech B 4 (132).

Division five: Llanrhaeadr D 6 (148) Corwen B 4 (137), Chirk C 4 (137) Llanrhaeadr B 6 (139), Royston B 8 (160) Weston Rhyn B 2 (121).

Four-star TNS start season in fine style

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints got their Welsh Premier title defence off to a smooth start as they swept aside new boys Haverfordwest 4-0 at the Conygar Bridge Meadow.

A brace from Alex Darlington on 26 and 59 minutes, his first a terrific solo effort, helped set up a dominant opening day win as TNS again showed they mean business in pursuit of a fifth successive league crown.

Chris Seargeant found the net seven minutes before half time with a fine free kick and, after Darlington had spurned a penalty, substitute Greg Draper got a 78th minute fourth to settle the issue.

With the rain teeming down at the Bridge Meadow, Craig Harrison's men may have thought they would be in for a tricky afternoon against a Haverfordwest side looking to make their mark on their return to the league. But the visitors bossed the encounter right from the first whistle, with forward Mike Wilde sounding an early warning when heading against the bar.

The Saints continued to dominate the ball and the breakthrough came with 26 minutes gone with a stunning effort from Darlington.

Advantage

The former Wrexham front runner launched a strong run after picking the ball up from half way, skipped past four defenders before coolly slotting the ball in from eight yards.

The impressive Darlington was once again involved five minutes later with his excellent pass picking out winger Jamie Mullan who chipped the ball over the bar.

However, the Saints duly doubled their advantage moments later when they were awarded a free kick on the edge of the box and Seargeant curled a sublime effort into the corner of the net.

The second half began in similar vein with Scott Quigley's powerful strike being blocked, before Quigley then picked out Darlington who headed in his second on the hour for a comfortable 3-0 advantage.

Darlington had a golden chance to complete his hat-trick from the penalty spot after Mullan was impeded in the box, but the forward's spot kick was kept out by home keeper Scott Jones.

But the Saints who had the last word when substitute Draper, who had come on for Wilde, slotted a fourth goal 12 minutes from time.

Three and easy for FC Oswestry



FC Oswestry's Dave Hartshorn lets fly at the FC Hodnet goal at Park Hall. Picture: Ian Jones.

EARLY pacesters FC Oswestry Town made it three wins on the trot as they continued their perfect start with a 2-0 success against one of their likely title rivals FC Hodnet at Park Hall.

After a hard-fought two-goal victory against Prees in midweek, Town struggled to take a grip and keeper Paul Morris was called into action after 20 minutes to make a fine save.

However, from that moment, Nick Maguire's side took control with Tommy Lewis and Dave Hartshorn causing the visitors problems in a goalless first half.

The hosts continued to call the tune after the interval and the breakthrough came midway

through the second half when Graham Dyke sent Tommy Lewis free and his ball found the feet of Chris Bishop who was brought down when one-on-one.

Up stepped Calum Williams to score his second penalty on the spin to give his side a deserved lead they never looked likely to relinquish, particularly as Hodnet were reduced to 10 men for violent conduct moments later.

Town made them pay, with Paul Bache and Lewis now running the game which was effectively won when Elliot Howes picked out Stefan Ivanov who in turn found the feet of Bishop who smashed home from 12 yards.

Town are now three wins from

three and look to maintain their excellent start at AFC Bridgnorth reserves on Saturday (3pm).

Despite their fine start, they have been made to battle, with Prees proving a tough nut to crack a few days before before winning 2-0, with youngster Calum Williams eventually finding a way through from the penalty spot after Tommy Lewis had been fouled in the box.

Town dominated the second half with chances falling to Dan Graham and Graeme Kirkham. With defenders John Harris and Joe Evans holding firm for the hosts, victory was secured with 20 minutes left with a fine 45-yard strike from veteran Paul Bache.

Llan frustrated by a second defeat

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

CHURCHSTOKE bounced back from their six goal beating by Berriew with a 3-2 home verdict against Betws, while mid-table **DYFFRYN BANW** were held 1-1 at Penybont.

FOUR CROSSES' poor start to the season continued as they crashed to their third defeat with a 3-0 loss at Betws, leaving them without a point to their names.

Earlier in the week, Waterloo Rovers hit back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with Llanrhaeadr to maintain their creditable start to the season.

Llan started brightly and took the lead when a long range shot from Peter Jones came back of the crossbar and rebounded into the net of goalkeeper Matt McWhinnie.

Iwan Matthews struck with a volley to double the lead but Waterloo rallied and were rewarded for their efforts when Andrew Gwillt headed home a Dale Wolverson free kick.

Waterloo started the stronger of the two teams

in the second half and levelled matters when Will Pritchard latched onto a Ryan Evans through ball and chipped over the advancing goalkeeper.

Both teams had chances to win the game, with home substitute Nick Roberts missing a golden opportunity when blazing over in the dying seconds.

Welshpool Town suffered a slender 1-0 reverse at Carno, while Llandidies secured a 4-2 victory at Machynlleth through Charlie Proctor, Elliot Jones (penalty), Ricky Litchfield and captain Steve Jones.

Karl Seliarts fired a hat-trick as Berriew stormed to a 6-3 win at Churchstoke in division two, with Jonny Roberts (2) and Steffan Rogers also finding the net.

Dyffryn Banw also hit the goal trail as they swamped struggling Four Crosses 7-2 while Abermule were edged out 4-3 at Presteigne.

Midweek results

Division one: Aberaeron 1 Penrhyncoch 1, Bow Street 3 Tywyn Brynrcrug 2, Carno 1 Welshpool 0, Knighton 2 Hay St Mary's 3, Machynlleth 2 Llandidies Town 4, Waterloo Rovers 2 Llanrhaeadr 2.

Division two: Betws 3 Kerry 2, Churchstoke 3 Berriew 6, Dyffryn Banw 7 Four Crosses 1, Newbridge 3 Penybont 2, Presteigne 4 Abermule 3, Radnor Valley 3 Bullth Bells 4.

Rhyn edge closer to promotion after rout

WESTON RHYN A were on cloud nine after closing in on promotion with a 9-1 rout of one of their chief rivals Llanrhaeadr A in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division two.

With two matches left, and with a vastly superior shots difference, second placed Rhyn are in touching distance of a return to the top flight.

Andy Riley, leading the second division averages, notched his 15th win in 17 outings with a 21-4 verdict to set up his side's whopping 167-102 aggregate success.

Next week, Rhyn face a title showdown when they visit Johnstown B are still three points clear at the top after securing a fine 7-3 (144-125) success away to **ELLESMERE B**. Neil Kershaw (21-10) was the best response for the home side.

LLANYMYNECH A shaded a 6-4 win at home to **CHURCH B**, taking the shots by just six (134-128).

Paul Milner won 21-6 for the Church and skipper Emrys Jones prevailed to nine, while Mark Kirkham (21-4) was the best of the replies.

YE OLDE CROFTE A succumbed 7-3 (158-125) away to Llangynog A. Wyn Parry (21-16) their best. **GEORGE** kept alive their hopes of survival with a 10-0 (168-90) hammering of rock bottom **ELLESMERE A**, John Hughes (21-5) one of their four single figure winners.

CHURCH A's mixed fortunes continued in division one with a 7-3 (151-122) home loss to second placed Ruabon A despite good wins from Steve Williams (21-11) and Ade Humphreys (21-15).

Ifton looking good for spot in top five

IFTON are looking in good shape for a top five finish in the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League season after maintaining their creditable campaign with an 11-3 (59 shots) victory over visiting Wem USC.

The St Martins side have proved a solid force at home, keeping up the good work as Leighton Roberts led the way with a 21-0 whitewash that saw him earn his side's most valuable player honour on the night.

Keiron Roberts was also a single figure winner when prevailing 21-9, while Dave Bond won to 11 and Darren Lacey to 13 in the 238-179 aggregate success.

Geraint Williams weighed in with a 21-14 verdict, while there were further wins from Richard Zolman (21-16), Megis Phillips (21-17) and Jeff Cooper and Carl Roberts, who both prevailed 21-18.

With four matches remaining this season, Ifton now turn their thoughts to Friday's visit to Hadley as they bid to stay among the leading pack.

Rain has last word in time trial series

THE rain stopped in time for the 35 riders in the penultimate round of the Oswestry Paragon cycling club's evening time trial series.

There was another new name at the top of the leader board with Matt Gilbert of Fibrax-Wrexham crossing the line in 21 minutes 56 seconds to take the honours by nearly a minute from team mate Steve Aston (22.54).

Neil Coles was the quickest Paragon rider in 23.15 splitting the Oswestry Peloton pair of Colin Elgie (23.09) and Andrew Howell (23.22).

Stephen Hall of Fibrax-Wrexham finished sixth in 23.39 despite mechanical issues, while seventh went to Trevor Peate of Oswestry Peloton in 23.57 ahead of Richard Line of ProVision (24.00).

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TNS Ladies in a
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Kirk beaming for
the seconds – P46



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Double gold for ace Dan in the pool



Dan Jones is raking in the medals

TEENAGE swimmer Dan Jones continues to make waves in his blossoming career after capping a hectic summer with more medal winning success.

The Oswestry Otter captain, a key member of the Shropshire team, powered his way to five personal best times at the Welsh National Championships in Swansea on his way to picking up two golds.

He then had to leave the Welsh Nationals midway through after being called up to swim for Swansea Aquatics at the GB National Championships in Sheffield to form part of the club's 4x100m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle relay team.

It was the first time the club had put out such a relay team as there had never enough swimmers at that level before.

And the team managed to reach the finals in both of their relays, with Jones producing four personal best times during heats and finals to reduce his time in the 200 metres freestyle from 1.54 seconds to 1.51.

Then, in the 100m relay, he launched another terrific swim to drop his time from 52 seconds to 50.9 which was another terrific achievement for the young swimmer.

The team swam so well that they reduced their finish time in the 4x200m relay by nine seconds to win silver – their second medal of the championships after also taking silver in the 4x100m.

Living over the border in Powys, Jones remains member of Oswestry Otters and the Shropshire team, although he has now moved to Swansea to train full time and further his career in the pool.

He has represented Shropshire, the Otters and Wales at national and international level since the age of eight and is now working towards target of Commonwealth Games 2018. Since moving to Swansea in April, he has been training really hard with the Swansea Aquatic Elite Performance Squad.

Jones has been indebted to Sport Aid Wales for their help and to two Welshpool businesses – Best Kebab Welshpool and Rikki Lloyd – who have offered valuable sponsorship.

Saints boss purring after opening win

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Hall. But manager Harrison feels the defending champions can go into the encounter in confident mood after their slick opening day display.

"We were very professional and polished, and we carried on from where we left on with some fantastic performances in Europe and in some high profile friendlies," he said.

"I thought it was going to be tough as Haverfordwest are new to the league and did not want to get beat in their first game, but we were bril-

liant from the first whistle to the last.

"The lads who scored the goals will get the headlines, but I thought we were excellent throughout the team and again showed the strength we have in our squad."

He added: "There are players who would be disappointed at not playing, but I like it that way. I want everyone to fight for their position. Even though we won 4-0, it doesn't mean that I'm not going to make any changes for Friday's game."

Right-back Simon Spender is still injured, giving youngster Ryan Pryce another chance to impress.

CLARKE CAN BE NEXT JOE ROOT

FORMER England captain Michael Vaughan has tipped Oswestry's Joe Clarke to be in England's Ashes squad when they head to Australia in 2017 to defend the urn.

Clarke, an England under-19 wicketkeeper batsman, has impressed in his first season for Worcestershire, which earned him a new three year contract with the Pears.

He has reeled off four half centuries in First Class cricket, and hammered two fifties in One Day cricket as well as his maiden century against Gloucestershire when finishing unbeaten on 131.

"I've seen him a few times and think he has a sound game," said Vaughan, who famously led England to the Ashes in 2005.

"Good front foot, back foot. He's 19 now, will be 22 by the time of the next Ashes, a great time to blood a young player.

"A stab in the dark but he will emerge in the same way Joe Root did a few years ago."

Oswestry's cricketers, meanwhile, are facing a make-or-break in the Birmingham League division one knowing their relegation fate could be sealed in a Bank Holiday double header.

Languishing 32 points adrift of safety, the Morda Road men have just four games to launch a great escape – including two this weekend with a trip to Moseley on Saturday followed by a home clash against Bromsgrove on Monday (12noon).

Defeat in both games would certainly spell the end of Oswestry's first division status after the prospect of relegation reared following last week's rain-affected 100-run defeat at Himley.

Without a win since the end of June, while having lost seven of their last eight games, the Morda Road side would need a remarkable turnaround to avoid their drop.

Club chairman Mike Robinson admits prospects of survival are now slim, but insisted the team would give it their all in the final matches.

"The players have not performed this season, but we'll keep fighting until it's not mathematically possible to stay up," he said.

Clarke has confirmed his availability for Saturday while Worcestershire team-mate Jack Shantry – who has played just once this season – could also make an appearance. Mark Robinson misses the two games, while Jonathan Miles, who captained the side last week, is also unavailable.

Super six for racer Atherton



Let us spray – Rachel Atherton after her World Cup win in Italy. Picture: Sven Martin.

THE champagne was flowing as champion rider Rachel Atherton reeled off her sixth consecutive UCI World Cup downhill win on the Italian course at Val di Sole.

Despite having already clinched the world series crown for the fourth time in her career, the Llanrhaeadr ace was in no mood to ease up as she made it six wins out of seven races this season.

She again underlined her superiority last weekend with her 26th World Cup win to further push her claim to be UK's most awarded mountain biker.

Val di Sole is notoriously hot, dusty, and physical, and the qualifying round was close as Atherton led from Manon Carpenter.

In the finals, she turned up the heat with a scorching run to come in three seconds faster than her qualifying time in four minutes 08.636

seconds to seal her sixth straight victory of the series by 2.2 seconds.

"There were some very sketchy moments in there and I almost forgot about the race in just trying not to crash," she said. "I really wanted the win here today but I knew that it wouldn't be easy."

The results for the Women's Series overall saw a fantastic run for the UK with Atherton first in 4.08.636, Manon Carpenter second in 4.10.875 and Tahnee Seagrave clocking 4.15.080 to come third.

In the men's race, Atherton's brother Gee finished sixth with a time of 3.36.437 which was enough to clinch sixth place in the series overall.

He was 4.515 seconds adrift of winner Aaron Gwin, and it was the first time he has been out of the top five since 2005.

Llanfair look forward to seaside trip

MANAGER Rhys Stephens insists there are positives from Llanfair United's first defeat of the season as his side prepare for Saturday's testing Cymru Alliance trip to Prestatyn Town.

The Seasideers have dropped down from the Welsh Premier, but have already underlined their credentials with back-to-back wins.

Llanfair, themselves, went down 3-0 at home to Denbigh Town who scored three times early in the second period to wrap up the points.

"Although we lost, there were positives as Denbigh are a good side, one that could finish in the top six," said Stephens.

"We more than matched them in the first half, it was very even, but we went behind with an own goal from a corner, it was bad luck, just one of those things

"After going 1-0 down, we started to chase the game too soon and Denbigh scored twice more in five minutes. So in the space of 10-15 minutes of the second half, the game had gone.

"They were very clinical, took their chances, it was a tough lesson. but we will learn from it."

Defeat was a timely reminder of the challenges ahead, despite the fine 5-2 opening day win at Buckley Town on the opening day.

GUILDSFIELD boss Danny Barton feels there's still room for improvement despite his side winning their opening two games.

The 2-1 victory over Gresford Athletic with goals from Gareth Jones and Jack Richards, took the Guils top of the Cymru Alliance, but they now face a tough trip to Flint Town on Saturday.

"Flint is going to be our first real test," said Barton. "Although we won there last season, we don't tend to have a good record there, and we'll have to play better than we did last week."

"It was not a good performance, we had enough chances to have been out of sight, but we'll take the three points and move on."

Barton faces between four-six weeks on the sidelines with a hamstring injury picked up following his appearance as substitute against Gresford.

Waterloo look for cup home comfort

WATERLOO Rovers have been handed home advantage in the second qualifying round of the Welsh Cup – but Llanrhaeadr, Welshpool and Montgomery must all hit the road.

Rovers have a favourable home tie with struggling Tywyn Brynrcrug, but their Maesdyre rivals Welshpool have a tricky trip to Knighton Town.

Llanrhaeadr head to Carno who won 1-0 when the sides met in the Spar Mid Wales League just last week, while Montgomery are away to Aberaeron. Ties to be played on Saturday, September 12.

Selected ties: Penrhyncoch v Llanidloes Town, Carno v Llanrhaeadr, Knighton Town v Welshpool Town, Berrw v Machynlleth, Waterloo Rovers v Tywyn Brynrcrug, Aberaeron v Montgomery Town, Bow Street v Hay St Mary's.

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